



SOTC Worship
April 25, 2021
Fourth Sunday after Easter

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, + and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Gathered in the presence of God and each other, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

Gracious Father,
you sent your Son to die and rise again so that death might be conquered, and so that we might live a new life in Christ. Yet, we confess that we too often have chosen to remain captive to sin, to doubt, to fear, and to brokenness that only leads us to death. By our thoughts, words, and actions, we have scorned your love, diminished the lives of others, and marred your image within us. Father, we need a resurrection. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may rise up to live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Hear the Good News! Christ is risen and the stone has been rolled away. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is your new beginning as the old things die and you are made new. In the name of Jesus Christ, + your sin is forgiven, and death no longer holds power over you. You are free to live as a resurrected child of God.

Amen! Alleluia!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray -

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

READING: ACTS 4:5-12

⁵The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is
‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

PSALM: PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff —

they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

my whole life long.

READING: 1 JOHN 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: JOHN 10:11-18

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

SERMON



1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres - ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23
 Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer." If you would like to add a prayer petition, email it to Pastor Aleese at pastor@shepherdofthecross.org

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you!

Congregation gathered in-person is invited to share a sign of peace with others using a peace sign or gentle bow. Please refrain from physical touch. For those gathered both in-person and digitally, take a moment to pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those

who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Congregation is invited to share communion elements with those in their family, saying "The body of Christ, given for you," and "the blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are worshipping on your own, hear the words proclaimed by Pastor Aleese as God's Word of promise is spoken to you. All are welcome to share in God's feast given to us in love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

Go forth with renewed hope,
trusting in the transforming love of God.

God does not leave things as they are.
With God, all things are made new.

Nothing is beyond the reach of God. For Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as you go forth from worship, may the one who brought forth Jesus from the dead, raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news!
Thanks be to God!