Confession and Absolution

711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obv1mXRTbq

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
   Much we need Your tender care.
   In Your pleasant pastures feed us,
   For our use Your fold prepare.
   Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
   You have bought us; we are Yours.

2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,
   Be the guardian of our way;
   Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,
   Seek us when we go astray.
   Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
   Hear us children when we pray.

3 You have promised to receive us,
   Poor and sinful though we be;
   You have mercy to relieve us,
   Grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free.
   Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
   Early let us turn to You.

4 Early let us seek Your favor,
   Early let us do Your will;
   Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
   With Your love our spirits fill.
   Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
   You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Kyrie

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Harvel, IL

May 3, 2020

Vicar Joe Nehring
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C Amen.

This Is the Feast [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vIH3k4CgeQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vIH3k4CgeQ)  

C This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day  
P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Let us pray.
Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Sit

First Reading  
Acts 2:42–47  

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.  
43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.  
44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.  
45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.  
46 And day by day,
attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 23; antiphon: v. 1

1The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.
3He restoration my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.
4Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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 forever.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

1[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the
sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Sit

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgG3Lpm8XSA

1 The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.

4 In death’s dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me, Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestowed; And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

Text: Public domain
Sermon

Grace, Mercy and Peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

This Sunday, Good Shepherd Sunday, marks the 7th Sunday since we were able to worship together in person. The first two weeks, we relied solely on written copies of each service, each sermon, and each set of prayers. To return to the spoken word, we have ramped up Facebook Live, so that folks can hear God’s Word proclaimed as if they were in church. But, it just isn’t the same. It is certainly not the same to preach to a camera. It is not the same to speak both parts of the service instead of just the leader’s parts, to say, “The Lord be with you” and then answer “and also with you”. And it is just not the same to not greet people afterwards. But in these challenging times, we are truly blessed to be able to hear God’s word (the 3rd Commandment) without disobeying the authorities (the 4th Commandment) and probably more importantly, not endangering anyone’s health and wellbeing by accidently sharing a virus that one might not even know one has (the 5th Commandment).

Our service is one of many, many services on the internet these days. Vicar’s voice is just one voice, one voice out of many. Many pastors are also using Facebook Live or YouTube or Vimeo to allow their members to hear their voice as well, faithfully proclaiming Jesus as Lord to the Glory of God. As under shepherds, each Pastor is the voice of Jesus to his congregation. Each voice is different just as each congregation is different.

There are many others who are also trying to make their voices heard, not for the glory of God or the benefit of the hearer. Paul tells the Philippians (Philippians 3:18-20) “For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.” Luke warns us “And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them.”

In verse 3 of this morning’s Gospel, we hear Jesus speaking of himself “3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Visitors to Israel, even today, are often impressed by shepherds. Often, shepherds come together, allowing their flocks to mingle with another flock. And to the amazement of tourists, shepherds call their sheep and the sheep follow. The shepherd knows and loves the sheep. The sheep know and trust the shepherd as he provides for their safety and wellbeing, both security and pasture. The sheep know the shepherd and the shepherd knows the sheep. The shepherd places the sheep’s needs before His own. The shepherd leads the sheep to pasture, to fulfill the needs of the sheep. The shepherd leads from the front, showing the sheep the way, confident in the sheep’s ability to follow, knowing that the sheep will follow. Sometimes sheep need to hear their names called to follow appropriately. And so, the shepherd calls the straying sheep, keeping the flock together for the benefit of the straying sheep and the flock, not the shepherd.

Throughout the Old Testament, the image of sheep and shepherd are very common. Jacob shepherds the flocks of Laban. Moses shepherds the flocks of Jethro. David was the young shepherd who slayed Goliath and becomes the shepherd king of Israel. All these point us to Jesus, our Good Shepherd, the one who laid down his life for the sheep. Psalm 95 tells us “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Psalm 100 tells us “Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” Yet, we like sheep have gone astray. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

You too have sinned. Sometimes, you fail to heed your Good Shepherd’s voice. Other times, you chose Your will over God’s will, your way over God’s way. Still other times, you chose to heed voices other than your shepherd’s, the voices of robbers and thieves who would take away your life, your joy, your loving relationship with God. At times, you fail to trust God for all things.

This morning’s epistle tells us God’s solution. God sent Jesus to bear your sins in His body on the tree, that you might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. Jesus committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. Jesus came and willingly suffered the most humiliating, the most shameful, the most painful death at the hands of sinners to take your sins away. By his wounds you have been healed. Jesus takes your sins of not heeding His voice, of not trusting God for all things, of listening to other voices who would take away God’s gracious gifts to you. However, Jesus came that you may have life and
have it abundantly, the Good Shepherd laying down his life for the life of the sheep. God raised Jesus from the dead, proof that Jesus is our Good Shepherd who had conquered sin & death. God sends His Holy Spirit into our lives to work faith in our hearts, to call us by name to be God’s own dear children, sheep of his own pasture, to call us to repent when we go astray, listening to the voices of those who would rob and steal, those who would take away our life instead of giving us life abundantly, heeding the voice of our Good Shepherd.

As you struggle and suffer through these days of the corona virus pandemic, listen for the voice of Jesus and follow His voice as he leads us through this valley of darkness and the shadow of death. Avoid the voices of the strangers that lead away from Jesus. Heed the words of 1 John 4 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

May we always hear and listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd who suffered and died for our sins that we may have life and have it abundantly. Amen.

And now, may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Lead by our Shepherd, let us come before His throne of grace in prayer on behalf of all people according to their needs.

Blessed Shepherd, You established Your Church with Your sacrificial death and mighty resurrection. Grant us devotion, that we may abide in the teaching of the apostles and honor the fellowship of the Church. Guard us against all enemies of Your Word, and keep us within the care of Your flock and staff forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mighty Shepherd, You hold in Your hands all the might of man, and You hold accountable those who would govern Your people. Grant us good government and good leaders who will honor Your purpose, protect Your people, serve the cause of justice and defend our liberty against all threats. Give them wisdom and moderation in their pandemic response. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving Shepherd, You loved the world enough to shed Your blood, and You desire that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Inspire and equip Your Church and her ministers to speak faithfully and boldly Your Word and bless all those who serve us on Your behalf. Bless us especially when we are persecuted for the faith or suffer for the sake of the good that honors You and is obedient to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy Shepherd, You have clothed us with Christ’s righteousness and taught us to love all that is good, right and true. Bless all artists and artisans, composers and musicians, and craftsmen and writers, that they may employ all their skills for Your glory and in service to the Gospel and that the arts may testify to Your saving death and resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful Shepherd, Your wounds are our healing and Your voice calls us to You in time of need. Hear us on behalf of all those who suffer in body or mind, who grieve those whom they love, and to whom death draws near. We pray especially for ___________ and those we name in our hearts. Grant them healing according to Your will, grace to sustain them in the day of trouble, and hope of the new and everlasting life to come. Be with the unemployed and the distressed, and return them to health and livelihood. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Shepherd, You seek out those who have fallen and restore the sinner to repentance. Send forth Your Spirit to rekindle faith in the hearts of those who have fallen away from the truth or who have been overcome by temptation and sin. Bring good from ill and increase in all the hunger for Your Word and a recognition of our need, that many may be gathered into Your flock when church doors are opened wide again. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
Giving Shepherd, You have not withheld anything from us but emptied Yourself fully upon the cross that we might be saved. Move our hearts to such devotion and teach us such generosity, that we may bring to You the tithes and offerings of a grateful heart and serve our neighbor in need with the resources You have supplied to us so abundantly. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Good Shepherd, You set Your table among us in the presence of our enemies. Hear us because we are beset by so many false voices and tempted by so many false gospels. Help us to hear Your voice and to abide safely in Your Word that remains forever. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

O great Good Shepherd, we pray You to hear Your sheep and answer our prayers with mercy, granting us those things profitable for us and our salvation and keeping from us all things harmful; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

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.

Post-Communion Collect

Let us pray.  
O God, protect the tempted, the distressed, and the erring, and gently guide them. By Your great goodness bring them into the way of peace and truth. Graciously regard all who are in trouble, danger, temptation, or bondage to sin, and those to whom death draws near. In Your mercy draw them to Yourself; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

740 I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwQuCe_BiA4

1 I am Jesus’ little lamb,  
Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me ev’ry day the same,  
Even calls me by my name.  
2 Day by day, at home, away,  
Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,  
Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go  
Where the quiet waters flow.  
3 Who so happy as I am,  
Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?  
And when my short life is ended,  
By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast,  
There within His arms to rest.

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