



**Midweek Service of Word, Song and Prayer**

## Opening Prayer

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Readings

Acts 9

<sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.

What is the point of this story from Acts?

Revelation 7

...Then the elder said to John, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

How does the blood of the Lamb make things clean again?

John 10

<sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.

How would you describe the relationship between Jesus the shepherd and his followers the sheep?

## Reflection for the Day

*The Good Shepherd*

Messages and information today are texted, tweeted, broadcast, e-mailed, phoned, lectured, announced, packaged, and repackaged. The means and avenues for communication are many. Yet when it comes to the person known as Jesus of Nazareth we are often left standing in the place of the Jewish people who gathered around Jesus at that portico (John 10:22-23). We long to know, Who are you, Jesus? and perhaps want to probe, What are you really about? Of course the qualification is for him to "tell us plainly" (John 10:24).

So, the fourth Sunday of Easter is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. This day each year the gospel reading comes from one of the passages in John's gospel in which Jesus describes himself as a shepherd caring for sheep. Even though many people have little or no firsthand understanding of a shepherd's day-to-day work, this image of a strong and caring protector continues to resonate. Being known by name, being protected when dangers come, being cared for by someone who knows us—these are powerful images of human needs. Needs met by Jesus the Good Shepherd. The one who promises that nobody can snatch us out of his hands.

## **Hymn of the Day**

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
much we need Thy tender care;  
in Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use Thy folds prepare:  
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

2 We are Thine; do Thou befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way;  
keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray:  
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear, O hear us when we pray;  
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear, O hear us when we pray.

3 Thou has promised to receive us,  
poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
grace to cleanse, and power to free:  
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to Thee;  
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to Thee.

4 Early let us seek Thy favor;  
early let us do Thy will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior,  
with Thy love our beings fill:  
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou has loved us, love us still;  
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Text: Dorothy A. Thrupp (1836)  
Tune: William B. Bradbury (1859)

## **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 to the living,  
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.**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

#### **Closing Prayer**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**