FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 21, 2024

resurrection REALity



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BRIAN PECHMAN, PASTOR



IN THE NAME OF JESUS

THE THEME OF OUR WORSHIP:

Resurrection REALity: providing good shepherding. Scripture frequently pictures spiritual care in terms of a shepherd watching over sheep. Even folks unfamiliar with shepherding are able to grasp the meaning. Sheep are helpless animals...an easy meal for predators. For sheep to survive they needed a shepherd who not only leads them to sources of food...but who also is willing to tangle with a pack of wolves. Jesus is such a shepherd. He proved he is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. Today, there are plenty of people...pastors, religious leaders, etc...who claim they can provide healing for your soul. Yet, Scripture warns that "many" of these are "false prophets" (1 John 4:1) who "distort the truth" (Acts 20:30). Many! But the resurrection reality is that our Good Shepherd is faithful. He will raise up true sub-shepherds who know Christ and proclaim the truth of his gospel.

WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship on this morning. At Risen Savior, you will find a worship service designed to praise God and increase people's faith. While all styles of worship take some getting used to, we hope you will find that the *main message*—the unconditional love Jesus has for us—comes through clearly.

• **Connect cards** are available to you in this worship booklet and in the comment/chat box of whatever stream you are using. You may also directly fill out a <u>digital Connect Card</u>. Please take a brief moment to let us know that you have worshipped with us this morning.

PARTICIPATE. Many parts of our worship service are interactive. If you have downloaded the service folder to guide your worship, feel free to participate and sing along. There are also times in the service when Pastor and congregation speak back and forth. Please join together as you feel comfortable.

PARAMENTS. In Lutheran churches you often see *paraments...* the colored cloths with symbols on them. These change with the church seasons and celebrations as a visual reminder of what we are celebrating in our worship. White is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the "great fifty days" of Easter is "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on his day of resurrection is the cause for your rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes your purity. White reinforces that message of joy.

PERSONAL CONVENIENCES. For your convenience, restrooms are located down the hall opposite the entrance into the sanctuary...feel free to ask for directions. Cell phones should be turned off or put on vibrate mode so as not to disrupt others during the service. Thank you for your cooperation.

To help you focus while you join us for worship, take the time to eliminate as many distractions around you as possible. While we share the promises of God's Word with you, we encourage you to create community. Use the comment and chat areas to let others know you are worshipping with them. We may be separated by in-person or livestream worship, but we can connect with each other here for Christian support and encouragement.

WORSHIP NOTES

THE SEASON OF EASTER

Easter is the pinnacle of the Church Year...the oldest festival and season celebrated by the worshipping Church. For a full week-of-weeks (49 days) the Church celebrates the resurrection of Christ on the Sundays of Easter which culminate on the 50th day, Pentecost.

The large *paschal candle*...positioned near the altar...symbolizes the resurrection victory over the darkness of sin and death. It further emphasizes the link between baptism and the resurrection (Romans 6:3-5). The *paschal candle* as a symbol of the resurrection, remains lit throughout the Easter season...and is also lit at all baptisms and at all funerals.



EASTERTIME

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



The imagery of our God leading and feeding us as a shepherd does for his sheep is found throughout the Scriptures. It was one that was so powerful to people in the early church (as shepherding was a common profession back then), it became established practice that in one of the weeks after Easter, believers would spend a Sunday talking about how Jesus is the best shepherd of them all...one who loves his sheep so much he's willing to die for them. Today is that day. It is often known as "Good Shepherd Sunday". You will notice that every single lesson and hymn mentions sheep or shepherding.

The resurrection is not legend. It really happened. So, the reality: Jesus is exactly what he claimed to be...the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. So...the reality is Jesus' resurrection proves that "all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). The reality of the resurrection does not just change our future... but the way we look at life now.

RESURRECTION REALITY		
Easter Sunday	March 31	Life Worth Living
2 nd Sunday of Easter	April 7	The Living Lord Gives Proof and Peace
3 rd Sunday of Easter	April 14	A Meaningful Message to Share
4 th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)	April 21	Providing Good Shepherding
5 th Sunday of Easter	April 28	Producing Active Faith
6 th Sunday of Easter	May 5	Jesus' Business is LoveSo Is Ours
7 th Sunday of Easter (Ascension)	May 12	Christ Is Closer than Ever

ORDER of WORSHIP

DIVINE SERVICE

The *Divine Service* is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church where the Lord serves the Church with his Word and Sacrament.

OPENING HYMN

JESUS, SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP | 551

INVOCATION

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshippers of their baptisms.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ♣ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dear friends in Christ, today we come together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Let us draw near to him in worship and in praise, in our thoughts and in our prayers.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

The Sovereign Lord tends his flock like a shepherd.

He gathers the lambs in his arms, and carries them close to his heart.

Isaiah 40:11

He will stand and shepherd his flock in strength and majesty.

And they will live securely, for his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

Micah 5:4

CONFESSION OF SINS

As we come before our God and King, let us confess our sins.

Lord God, I humbly come before you.
I confess that I am sinful in thought, word, and deed.
I daily fail to do what you command, and continually do what you forbid.
Lord, I am sorry for my sins.
I believe that for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ,
you will have mercy on me.

Upon this, your sincere confession, by Christ's command and authority, I assure you that your sins are all forgiven. The vacant cross and the empty grave are God's signs to you that he has accepted the sacrifice of his one and only Son. Whoever believes this simple truth of Scripture has eternal life.

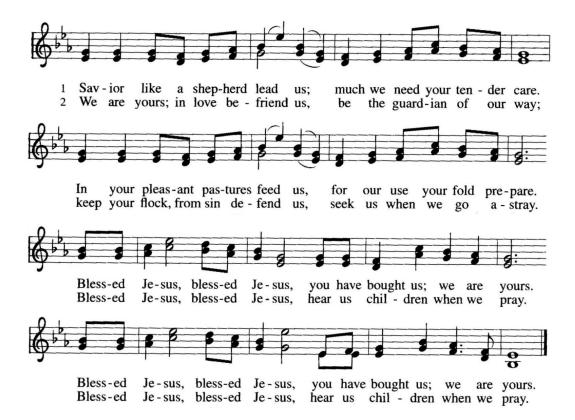
Amen!

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



After a brief musical introduction, the congregation joins to sing...

SAVIOR LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the Good Shepherd
who laid down your life for the sheep.
Lead us now to the still waters
of your life-giving Word
that we may abide
in your Father's house forevermore;
for you live and reign with him
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.



THE WORD

FIRST READING ACTS 20:28-32

Paul is under a time constraint as he hurries to Jerusalem in time to celebrate Pentecost. Paul does not want to stop in Ephesus because he knows that if he stops in Ephesus...he will have a hard time leaving. So he summons the Ephesian elders to Miletus and speaks to them there. In addressing them...Paul emphasizes the tremendous responsibilities these elders have. They are undershepherds and are charged with shepherding God's church. The work is so important because the flock is so precious to the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd...God himself, treasures this flock so much that he purchased it with his own blood! Those words, "Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood" (verse 28), testify to the deity of Jesus...the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for the sheep. They also speak of the inscrutable mystery of the two natures of Christ...that he was true God and true man in one person. Paul warns the Ephesian elders of the wolves that will threaten them and the flock...not just from outside the flock, but wolves in sheep's clothing also would arise from within the flock and try to lead God's sheep astray. Because of this, the elders need to always be alert and on guard...just as Paul himself was during the entire time he ministered to them. The task of guarding themselves and the flock God had entrusted to their care is a task they would not be able to do it they only rely on their own strength. So Paul entrusts them to the one who cares for his flock more than anyone else could...the one whose Word would be able to build them up and keep them close to him.

²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

³² "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 23

The Church sings this psalm in services that honor Jesus as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. It is frequently sung at funerals...calling to mind the presence of the Lord as Christians go through the valley of the shadow of death.



Fresh and green are the pastures where you give me repose. Near restful waters you lead me, to revive my weary spirit.

Refrain

You guide me along the right path; you are true to your name. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

Refrain

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Refrain

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell forever and ever.

Refrain

SECOND READING 1 JOHN 4:1-6

On Good Shepherd Sunday, we remember the responsibility of undershepherds to guard and guide the sheep. This reading tells us to "test the spirits" (verse 1)...an especially important encouragement as we evaluate those who serve as undershepherds. We are told not to believe every spirit or influence but to test them like someone inspecting counterfeit currency...comparing them against the original. The criterion for that evaluation is whether the sprits acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ having coming into the flesh. This testing may be harder than it sounds because we hear the message of the world so often and because what we hear sounds lie it is coming from those "from God".

Even at church we can be distracted by the world and be led to think that life goes well because we do the right things like going to church or giving offerings...instead of focusing on the truth pointing to Jesus as the one who has removed our eternal problems and promised to be with us through the temporary ones. Any voice that tells us not to expect those temporary problems speaks from the spirit of this world.

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The cantor will sing the refrain and the verse...the assembly may join in the final refrain.

Refrain



I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.—John 10:14

Refrain



GOSPEL JOHN 10:11-18

Each year the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is taken from John 10. The readings describe the relationship between Jesus, the Shepherd, and his sheep. It's not surprising to see a shepherd fighting to defend his sheep. This a reasonable expectation of a good shepherd. A shepherd willingly giving his life for the sheep, however...presents a striking picture. Ordinarily the shepherd possesses the sheep for his own use. He is of far greater value and importance. While he might labor to preserve the sheep for himself...giving up his life for them would be unreasonable. The gap in value between the shepherd and sheep is only heightened when the picture is applied to Christ and his people. Why should the Creator lay down his life so that traitorous creatures could live? But that is what he does. From the perspective of the sheep, at least, a better shepherd cannot be had. So Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd. Jesus is not calling himself a moral shepherd, godly and righteous shepherd...though that is certainly true of him. He is good in the sense that he functions as a Shepherd should. He bestows his shepherding care in the manner in which it needs to be done. These sheep need more than a defender. They need a Redeemer who will die for them. Jesus knows not only those who are his sheep at the moment...but he also knows other sheep that belong to him. He anticipates the future reach of the gospel to the Gentiles...who were "not of this sheep pen" (verse 16). So, "there shall be one flock and one shepherd" (verse 16).

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—
¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

After the gospel lesson, the congregation responds:



CHORAL ANTHEM

"CHRISTUS PARADOX"

Sylvia Dunstan

Arr.: Alfred V. Fedak

Hymn Appreciation: What is so unique about Christ? The fact that he is true God and true man simultaneously in one person. The dual nature of Christ naturally generates paradoxical claims. Verse 1 addresses Christ the Lord as both Lamb and Shepherd...a pair of images from John's gospel, where Jesus is the sacrificial lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and also the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. Christ is also both prince and slave. Verse 2 keeps the pattern of alternating status descriptions going with the phrases "shining in eternal glory" and "beggar'd by a soldiers toss". Every verse addresses Christ as "the everlasting instant"...a phrase that gives us at once the universality and particularity of Christ, his divinity and humanity, his location on the human timeline and his transcendence of all times.

An ancient Christian practice is the Paschal Greeting. Throughout the 50 days of Easter...whenever the pastor says... "Christ is risen!" the people respond, "He is risen indeed!" Connecting ourselves with the believers who have gone before us, you are asked to join in the Paschal greeting each time you hear "Christ is risen!"

SERMON JOHN 10:11-18

"Known & Valued"



THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

WE LOOK FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME. AMEN.

CONNECT

We would kindly ask everyone to fill out a <u>Connect Card</u> now. If you are worshipping with us virtually, you may also find a digital Connect Card link in the chat and comment boxes. What will be the "next steps" you can take as a response to the message you have heard today? You can also let us know how we can pray for you or ask for more information on one of the ministries or programs we are offering. Thank you!

OFFERING

If you're visiting today...we're glad to have you as our guest. Please don't feel any obligation to participate in this part of the service. In fact...we hope you'll consider this service our gift to you! This offering is an opportunity for those of us who are regular attenders to invest tangibly in what God is doing here. If you do wish to give an offering... please feel free to do so.

Giving Options:

- download the "Church Center" app. Search "Risen Savior Lutheran—Pooler".
- give your gift online.
- via text message: text any dollar amount to 84321 to give and follow the text instructions.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Prayer of the Church is one of the three responses to the Word that worshippers have heard in the readings and sermon. We respond with faith (speaking the Creed), with offerings, and with prayer. In the Prayer of the Church, God's people do the work of priests, making intercession for themselves...for others...and for the world.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his gracious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

After a brief musical introduction, the congregation joins to sing:



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body \$\mathbb{\Pi}\$, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood ♣ of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.



CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

After a brief musical introduction, the congregation joins to sing:



THE DISTRIBUTION

Through the Apostle Paul Jesus gives specific instructions about this special Supper. He says, "Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself"—1 Corinthians 11:27-29. So that this Supper remains a blessing and not a harmful thing to those who partake of it — we feel a loving, Godgiven responsibility to instruct and train all who wish to receive this Supper prior to their participation. If you haven't had the chance to receive instruction offered in this congregation or one of our sister congregations in our national church body (Wisconsin Synod), we ask that you speak with Pastor Pechman before taking the Lord's Supper. Pastor Pechman is eager to meet with you. We thank you kindly. And we greatly look forward to celebrating the Lord's Supper with you.

After the first group of communicants receives the Lord's Supper...the congregation will join in singing the hymn.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CHRIST HAS ARISEN, ALLELUIA | 466

Hymn Appreciation: The original Swahili version of this hymn was written by Bernard Kyamanywa while he was a student at a Lutheran Seminary in Tanzania. The hymn tells the joyful story of Jesus' resurrection in a straightforward manner emphasizing the victory won for you by Christ your King. The melody is traditional Tanzanian.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

And his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GODSPEED & FAREWELL

Today is the last Sunday that Ben & Karissa (Alethea) Jensen will be worshipping together with Risen Savior. They will making a change of station to a Coast Guard station in Maryland.

Risen Savior asks the Lord to watch over them as they move on to a new chapter in their life. For Christians...it's never "good-bye"; it's "I'll see you later."

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ₱ give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN OF DEPARTURE

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb | 804

Announcements

THUNDER GOLF CLASSIC: The Thunder Classic benefitting RSCA will be held at Savannah Quarters on Monday, May 20th. Shotgun start @ 9:00a. Registration is open for golfers, those wanting to attend the awards lunch, and volunteers. For those golfing, you may register as a single or as a golf foursome (preferred) for the tournament. Golfers, your dinner cost is included in the green fee. You can register for the Thunder Classic at: www.risensaviorgeorgia.com/thunder-classic. Here you will find instructions and payment options.

DIVINE CALL: Pastor has received a call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Howards Grove, Wisconsin. He is taking some time to decide where he can serve and grow best in God's Kingdom. For more details, please read the recent call email. There will be a Q&A session during Power Hour on May 5th. Your prayers for Pastor's deliberation are asked for, and feel free to share your input with him.

THANK YOU: God bless you all for your thoughts, prayers, and cards in my absence during my recovery. I appreciate it very much. They have encouraged me and kept me going. I hope to return to church soon, Lord-willing. Live in Christ our risen Savior, Mildred Burgstiner.

CAMP SOUTH: Camp South convenes July 22nd-26th in Covington, Georgia...Grades 4-8 (rising 9th graders included)...a Survivor-themed camp with multiple challenges daily...cost: \$350. The most fun you'll have this summer. Incredible activities (tough mudder, zip line, inflatables, massive group competitions), next-level worship, and more new friends than you can count. Registration closes at the end of May.

MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITIES: Matching gifts have been designated for both mortgage principal reduction and for RSCA scholarships. These will match every gift given to reduce Risen Savior's mortgage principal or given to RSCA tuition scholarships...dollar for dollar. These matching gifts will be available until June 2024. Please be encouraged to view these as "overand-above-your-regular-offering" opportunities. Collectively, our regular envelope offerings allow us to take care of our ongoing responsibilities. When making your gift, please mark it according to the area you are giving to. May the Lord bless these gift opportunities as he determines to be best.

SERVING @ RISEN SAVIOR

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Acolyte	Snacks	Livestream
Today	Jensen	J. Wong Z. Hefti	K. Vandenhouten	M. LeBlanc C. Lucas	B. Rife
04.28	Keyes	S. Baehman And. Schmidt	A. Thiesfeldt	W. McCauley J. Thiesfeldt	M. Schultz
05.05	Deines	B. Wethington B. Byrd	A. Pechman	K. Wellman J. Wray	E. Lucas
05.12	Mula	C. Zimmerman D. Zimmerman	B. Smalley	Graduation Reception	M. Lopez



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