

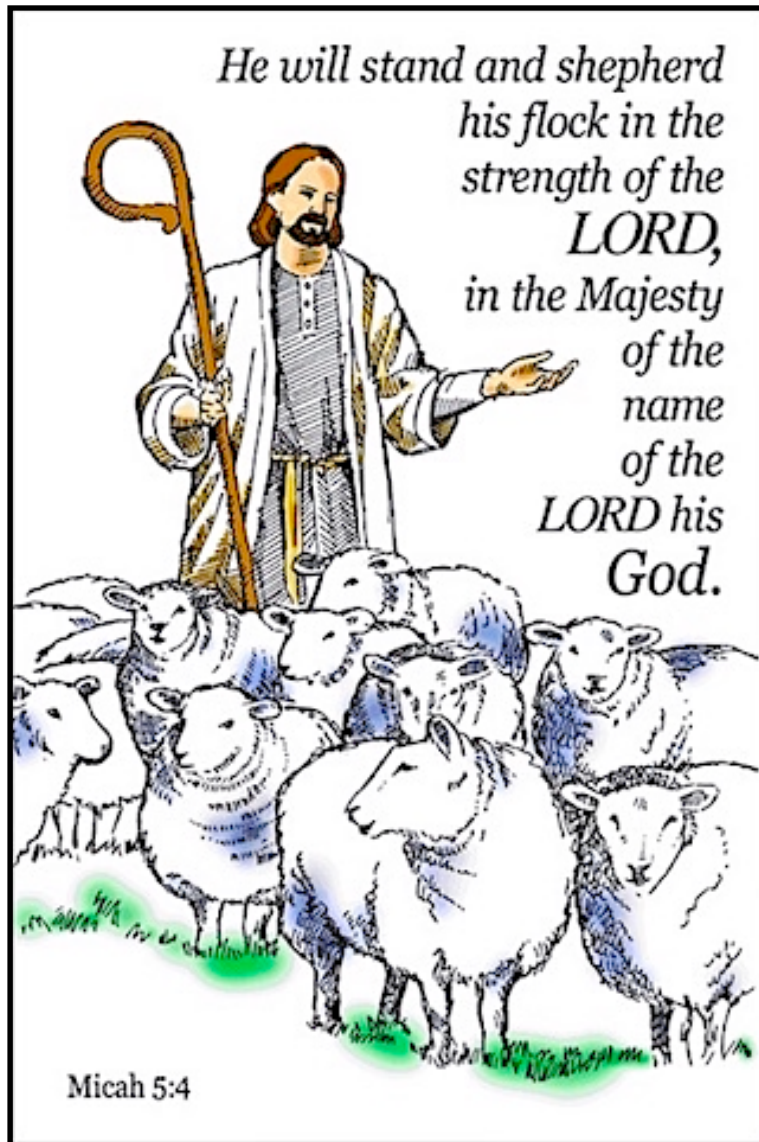
# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Church of the Lutheran Confession  
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**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday**

**April 21, 2024**

# Order of Worship: Service of the Word

Find today's order of service printed on the liturgy insert tucked inside the front cover of the maroon *Lutheran Service Book* (in the hymnal rack). Large print copies of the order of worship and worship bulletin are on the shelf under the tract rack or speak to an usher who will be happy to share them with you. A warm welcome in Christ to all worshipers!

## Serving Us Today

Organist Carly Mess; Usher Mark Hartmeister, Don Claeys

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 80 (pew bible, p.524)
- ◆ The Hymns: 477, 687, 710, 722
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Acts 4:23-33, John 10:1-10
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: Psalm 23
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Apostles Creed (liturgy insert, p.15)

## **Sermon Text – John 10:11-18**

### ***How Good Is Our "Good Shepherd!"***

(A CLC Ministry by Mail Sermon)

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction / Closing Hymn (722)

# Today's Scriptures

## First Lesson – Acts 4:23-33

*The Believers Pray for Boldness*

23 When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24 And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, ‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’ — 27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. 29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. 32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

## Psalm of the Day – Psalm 23

*The Lord the Shepherd of His People*

P The LORD is my shepherd:

**C I shall not want.**

P He makes me lie down in green pastures:

**C He leads me beside still waters.**

P He restores my soul:

**C He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

P Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death:

**C I will fear no evil,**

P For you are with me:

**C Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies:

**C You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

**C And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## **Second Lesson – John 10:1-10**

*Jesus Our True Shepherd*

1 “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. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 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. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

## **Sermon Text – John 10:11-18**

*I Am the Good Shepherd*

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. 17 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” [NKJV]

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**A Warm Welcome in Christ to our Worship Guests!** We are glad for the opportunity to share with you the Gospel of forgiveness through Jesus. Please introduce yourself to the pastor and sign our guest book. We invite you to come worship with us again. If you would like to know more about St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and our national organization, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, please speak with the pastor. He will be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you.

### **This Week at St. Paul**

Today (4/21)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School (no adult Bible Class)
	10:30 am	Front Range Mission Fest Service in Cheyenne
Sat	8:00 am	Spring Clean-Up Day (till noon)
Sun (4/28)	9:30 am	Worship Service at St. Paul
	10:45 am	Quarterly Voters Meeting

### **Upcoming Events**

- Class Day / Spring Concert at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire WI: Friday, May 18
- Graduation Ceremony at Immanuel: Saturday, May 19
- West-Central Delegate Conference: May 21-23 (hosted by Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine NE)
- CLC Youth Camp: June 9-15 (on the campus of ILC, Eau Claire)
- 36<sup>th</sup> CLC Delegates Convention: June 20-23 (at ILC, Eau Claire)

**In Our Prayers:** Fred Brethauer who is scheduled to undergo surgery tomorrow.

**Pastor Schuetze Is Out of Town** today attending the Front Range Mission Festival Service in Cheyenne. Our thanks to Wayne Ruegge for conducting the service in the pastor's absence.

**CLC Call News:** Ann Sprengeler has accepted the limited call from Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine NE, to teach the lower grades in their school from August through December 2024.

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

April 22-27

**Mon John 10:1-6** Jesus speaks with the Pharisees using an old illustration (Ezek.34) of a true shepherd and his flock. The sheep know his voice and follow, but will flee from thieves who sneak into the flock.

**Tues John 10:7-11** When the Pharisees do not understand (v6), Jesus uses another picture. “I am the door.” Only through Him will the flock be saved. He is the Good Shepherd. He lays down His life for the sheep (v11).

**Wed Revelation 3:1-6** Even in a congregation that has a reputation for being alive, the Lord knows those who are just going through the motions. He also knows those who are following Him from the heart.

**Thurs Isaiah 61:10, 11** The believer rejoices in the Lord, clothed in righteousness and adorned like a bridegroom or a bride adorned for their spouse (v10). The believer’s source of joy is the Lord’s doing, for He caused the righteousness to sprout up like a seed in the garden (v11).

**Fri Matthew 9:36-38** Jesus’ has compassion for the troubled and downcast people. He tells His disciples to pray to the only One who can really do something for them: the Lord of the harvest.

**Sat Psalm 23** The Lord our shepherd provides refreshment and rest, protects from evil and death, and lays a heavenly banquet before the sheep of His flock. There is nothing lacking!