



Lutheran Church of the
REFORMATION

I am the gate for the sheep

JOHN 10:7



Fourth Sunday of Easter
Our Common Prayer at Home
May 3, 2020

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Psalm 23

Leavitt

Greeting

The presiding minister and congregation welcome each other with a greeting shared by Jesus' early apostles and then join their hearts in prayer.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

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.

Welcome

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. We're in the middle of one great 50-day celebration: Easter every day. Resurrection everywhere. Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the peaceful waters of our baptism. Jesus spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

At the conclusion of this worship service after the Sending Hymn, we will baptize Minghao Tan into the body of Christ. Please join us on Facebook Live or Zoom.

Prayer of the Day

Even though we are distant from one another, the Spirit unites us as we pray this ancient prayer that introduces the biblical readings for today.

Let us pray.

After a brief silence for personal prayer, the presiding minister continues:

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

Children's Message

See www.reformationdc.org/worship for today's Children's Message.

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 23

The most beloved psalm in Christian use, Psalm 23, was seen in the fourth century as a description of the baptized life. The green pastures are the time of baptismal catechesis; the still waters are the font; the soul is restored by the infusion of the Spirit; the right pathways are the moral life of the transformed believer; God's rod and staff are our guidance for Christian living; the table is the eucharist, with a cup overflowing with mercy; the house of the Lord is the community of the church, within which we enjoy God's goodness.

Refrain

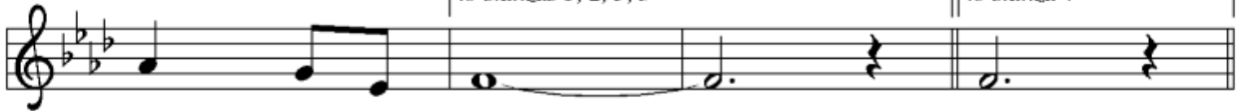
All



Shep- herd me, O God, be- yond my wants, be- yond my fears, from

to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5

to stanza 4



death in - to life.

life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep- herd, so noth- ing shall I want, I
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I

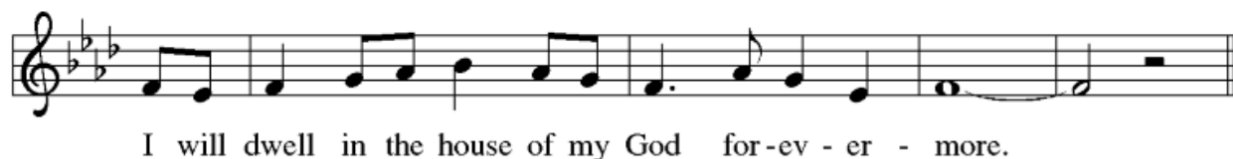


rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I
lead me by path- ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Gospel

John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

As you are able, proclaim the word of God in song.

Hymn

Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW 764

- 1 Have no fear, little flock;
have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen
to give you the kingdom;
have no fear, little flock!
- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;
have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you
in his love forever;
have good cheer, little flock!
- 3 Praise the Lord high above;
praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you,
uplift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above!
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
thankful hearts raise to God,
for he stays close beside you,
in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jilson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4

Text © 1973 Concordia Publishing House

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Prayers of Intercession

Unified by the promised hope of dealing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. I will conclude each petition with the phrase, "Lord, in your mercy," you may respond, "Hear our prayer."

Brief silence.

O God, of all creation and source of grace through the birth, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ, we especially note this Sunday the lushness of this early spring. Even in these troubled times the cycles and fullness of your creation gives us hope. We as your children, as your sheep, exist only because of the bounty of your creation. We are comforted because you are the source and shepherd of this creation.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Comforting God, send your Holy Spirit to wrap around us. Your world has nearly come to a halt. Our daily patterns are greatly changed. We do not know what lies ahead, but we do know that so much in life will be changed. Our central comfort is the certainty that you will be with us, no matter what comes.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sustaining God, we give thanks to those who strive to provide support and continuity in our lives, health givers, teachers, religious leaders, managers and administrators, producers and marketers of food, providers of electricity and water, sanitation workers, reporters and editors of the media, advocates for justice, postal and delivery workers, neighbors caring for others, in essence all who serve as your hands and do unto others as they would have done unto them.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, it is you who enable us to learn and discern. Through baptism you open the door for those washed and named as your children. Today we will so wash Minghao Tan and will promise to nurture him. This communal act mirrors the baptism of our Lord Jesus and reminds us of our baptismal journey. We as your children are brothers and sisters in Christ. Guide us in loving one another.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guiding God, even before this pandemic there were many things in the social, economic, and political systems of this world that were broken or needed to be improved. These weaknesses are now very apparent and affecting the flow of events. Come to all who govern and administer that they act with dignity and concern for those whom they lead and serve. We ask that we be embolden to support demands for good governance and for protection of your creation in these times and in the future, for we know that in this world we are your hands.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of Light, we pray for the church, the clergy and laity, those who lead and those who follow. We especially pray for those throughout the church who give care to others. Empower all who serve and those who receive. Bless Pastor Mike, Pastor Ben, and the staff as they serve this congregation and our community. We especially ask blessings on those here and throughout the world who in these times are without what they need or who bear pain. We hold up our special concerns for people or needs now aloud or in our hearts Wrap these petitions into the wonderful power of your creation and the love of your grace.
Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care, through Christ our Lord
Amen.

Exchange of Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with your friends and family while we listen to a musical offering. You may also take this time to text "Peace be with you" to another person -- maybe a friend you miss seeing in person at worship or even a neighbor in another city or state.

Mission Announcements can be found at www.reformationdc.org/worship

THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for the saving Word of Christ and all the gifts of God.

Offering of Gifts and Musical Offering

Although we are not gathering in the sanctuary, Reformation's ministries continue every day. Staff members are providing individual and communal pastoral care, coordinating lay leaders and volunteers, caring for our facilities, connecting us with one another, and developing resources for worship and spiritual growth. This time has disrupted the usual way we gather offerings and severely restricted the gifts of some households. We invite you to give as you are able.

Please give online at ReformationDC.org/give or send your checks to the church office. If you want to begin or change your Simply Giving weekly or monthly donation, email Office@ReformationDC.org.

*To use our new **Text-to-Give** option, send a text message to 844-414-8057 with the amount you would like to give to Reformation. You will receive a secure link to input your payment information. Once you have filled out your payment information, the contribution will be deposited directly into Reformation's bank account. After completing this setup, you can use text-to-give to donate again by simply texting additional donations to 844-414-8057*

Sheep May Safely Graze and Pasture

Bach

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Sending Prayer

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4

We conclude the thanksgiving with the prayer Jesus taught us. You can say this or another translation you know by heart.

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.

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.

Blessing

Numbers 6:23-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

Text © John B. Geyer.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

HOLY BAPTISM

God brings us out of death and into life.

Presentation for Baptism

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

The sponsor presents the candidate for baptism.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

I present Minghao Tan for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the candidate, sponsor, and congregation.

Minghao Tan, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Jesus Christ?

I do.

Philip, do you promise to nurture Tan in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Tan and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Praise to you for the Chesapeake Bay, the Anacostia, Potomac and Shenandoah
Rivers. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and Word of Christ that saves us.

The Ethiopian eunuch is baptized in welcome waters.

The merchant Lydia shares your word at the riverbank.

Peter, the zealot, and Cornelius, the centurion, are called to peace.

We are your children, born of water, blood, and Spirit.

Breathe your Spirit into Minghao Tan and into all creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your eternal fountain, and bring to birth the body of Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

Minghao Tan, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The pastor leads a prayer based on Isaiah 11:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Minghao Tan with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and reverence of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Minghao Tan anoints himself with olive oil from the Lutheran World Federation Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem as the pastor says:

Minghao Tan, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

Minghao Tan lights a candle from the paschal candle as a representative of the congregation says:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us pray. Almighty God, by the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to yourself and welcome them into the household of faith. May we show your joy by embracing new siblings in Christ as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our servant and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ☩ bless us now and forever.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Prayer List

WE GIVE THANKS ...

For those who celebrate anniversaries this week:

Michelle and Rob Luhrs (5/8).

For those who celebrate birthdays this week:

Joseph Thomas, Michael Wilker (5/3); Robert Heise, Malin Moeller (5/4); Rob Luhrs (5/5).

WE PRAY FOR. . .

Members and friends affected by COVID-19.

Len Hawley, friend of Dale Manty, as he receives treatment for leukemia.

Pat Thorne, friend of Del Voss, as the end of his life nears.

Robert Pfahl, as he prepares for pancreatic cancer surgery on April 17.

Mike Cochrane, brother of Karen Carlson, as he was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

Erica Hoff, daughter of Betty Walker, as she continues treatment.

Rebecca Pfahl, for health and healing.

Wayne Krumwiede, for health and healing.

Family of Betty Harper, sister of Roger Moffatt, who passed away in February.

Mel Antonen, Lisa Nipp, and Emmett as they deal with COVID-19 infections.

For David, Gudrun, and Julie, friends of Phillip Vender.

For the light of faith in the hearts of those living with and battling cancer.

For parents and elders who are navigating new homes and communities.

Robert Pfahl and his family as he continues treatment for pancreatic cancer.

Kate Hawkins, a friend of Brianna Widner's family, who is battling cancer.

For our congregational and family members in military and foreign service

Drew Shealy, Diane Kohn, Melinda Manning, Paul Cowden, Luke Frerichs, Jon Jones, Lee Patterson and family members of those in service here and around the world.

From our hearts for

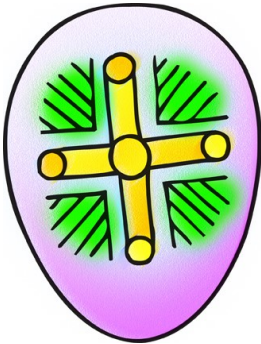
Phil Abbott, Tim Allmond, Angela Braxton, Bob Hedrick, Bernice Hoveland, Mary James, Leah Jones, Marvin Jones, Emmanuel Kabasaala, Wayne Krumwiede, Margot Lyddane, Carol Ann Mumaw, Valerie Platz, Ron and Daphne Rhine, Bill Scott, Madge Selinsky, Al Stauderman, Helen Vigness, and Carolyn Walker.

Please email your prayer requests to Pastor Mike at wilker@ReformationDC.org

Thanks be to God for today's Worship Leaders...

Presiding Minister
Preaching Minister
Assisting Minister
Readers
Cantors

Pastor Ben Hogue
Pastor Michael Wilker
Philip Moeller
Michael Ly, Jennifer Novak, Andrew Robb
Jon-Michael Eclar, Gabbi Levy,
Madelyn Salazar, Jon Korman



The most up-to-date Worship Schedule, will be found on our website, www.reformationdc.org.

We will continue to follow the guidelines of health professionals, scientists, government officials, and church leaders to make decisions regarding gathering for in-person worship. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION
212 EAST CAPITOL STREET, WASHINGTON, DC 20003

www.reformationdc.org

Phone: 202-543-4200 ✝ Email: office@reformationdc.org

A Reconciling in Christ congregation

Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Nursery, 8:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m.

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Lead Pastor

Pastor Michael Wilker
wilker@ReformationDC.org

President: Matt Fuehrmeyer

Associate Pastor

Pastor Ben Hogue
hogue@ReformationDC.org

Vice President: Bonnie Franklin

Administrator

Tegan Peterson
peterson@ReformationDC.org

Secretary: Karen Carlson

Director of Music & Arts

Paul Leavitt
pdleavitt0918@gmail.com

Financial Secretary: Suzanne Hazard

Treasurer: Roger Moffatt

Connect with us!



Church of the Reformation



@ReformationDC

#ReformationDC