



SERVICE OF THE WORD – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 2020

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



-Zeus, born on the Lowrance family farm

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

You Never Let Go

E - ven though I walk through the val - ley of the shad - ow of death, Your
I can see a light that is com - ing for the heart that holds on, a

3
per - fect love is cast - ing out fear. And e - ven when I'm
glo - rious light be - yond all com - pare. And there will be an

5
caught in the mid - dle of the storms of this life. I
end to these trou - bles, but un - til that day comes, we'll

7
won't turn back, I know You are near. And I will fear no e -
live to know You here on the earth.

10
vil, for my God is with me. And if my God is with

14
me, whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear? Oh no, You nev - er let go,
Chorus

18
through the calm and through the storm. Oh no, You nev - er let go, in ev - ry high and ev - ry low.

21
Oh no, You nev - er let go. Lord, You nev - er let go of me.

24
Yes, I can see a light that is com - ing for the heart that holds on. And there will be an

27
end to these trou - bles, but un - til that day comes, still I will praise You,

30
still I will praise You. to Chorus

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“This Is the Feast”

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together. **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.**

FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

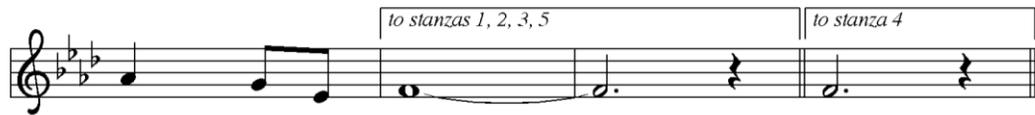
⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions 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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Refrain
All



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



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.

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

Refrain



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain
All



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



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

A reading from 1st Peter.

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

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.



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



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 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith, using the words of 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing 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.

Shepherding God, we thank you for the educational ministries of your church. Enrich the work of teachers, professors, mentors, advisors, and faculty at colleges, seminaries, and learning sites. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, we praise you for those who maintain and operate farm equipment, for those who plant and harvest crops, for local farmers' markets, and for those involved in agriculture of any kind. Strengthen their hands as they feed the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guiding God, no one should be in want. Bid the nations to return to your paths of righteousness and inspire our leaders to walk in your ways, so that all your children would have the opportunity to live abundantly and sustainably. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering. We pray for healing for Emily, Kathy, Eric, Ellen, Doug, Mike, Ralph, Sabrina, Kim, Buck, Karen, Pauline, Mary, Darice, Jennifer, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Ed, Earl, Barbara, Steven, and Susan. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you desire justice for the hungry. Bless advocacy work, food pantries, and feeding ministries in our congregations. We pray for local outreach, and we give you thanks for the work of HOPE of Rock Hill and Pathways Community Center. May none of our neighbors lack for basic needs. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, your beloved have heard your voice; you have called them by name and guided them to your side in death. We thank you for their lives of faithful witness. 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.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

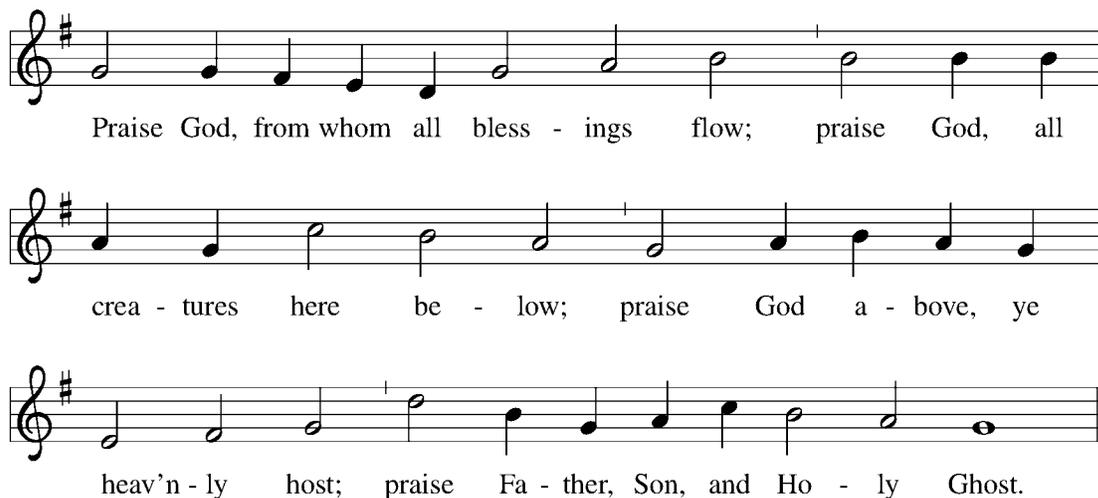
<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

ANTHEM

“Shelter Me”

by Fr. Michael Joncas
Grace Virtual Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Stand*) “Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow”



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Merciful God, our gifts seem small compared to what you have given us, yet you make of our gifts an abundance, just as you do with our entire lives. We long for the day when you can feed us again at your table, but for today, may we draw strength from the nourishment of your word, and send us forth for service in your name, for the sake of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

United as one church, deployed across a great distance, we unite our voices and join in the prayer that our Lord taught us:

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The blessing of the living God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage, as you share the joy of Christ with the world.

Amen.



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Preaching Minister | <i>The Rev. Gregg Hoffman</i> |
| Musician | <i>Dr. Jeremy Mims</i> |
| Cantor/Video Editor | <i>Craig Allen</i> |
| Bulletin | <i>Michelle Cunningham</i> |
| First Lesson | <i>Ed Seames</i> |
| Second Lesson | <i>Windy Cole</i> |
| Nicene Creed | <i>Dee Westbrook</i> |
| Prayers of Intercession | <i>Alfreda Sisson</i> |
| Pictures | <i>Members of Grace</i> |