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**4th Sunday of Easter**

“If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me, and where I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.” *John 12:26*

**AS WE GATHER**

Flocks of sheep can number in the hundreds or even thousands. An annual trek from winter quarters to summer pastures and back again at a location in rural Idaho consistently draws hundreds of spectators to a location where the sheep must cross a major highway to reach their destination. Keeping track of two or three thousand sheep on the move is quite a task! Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows how to care for not just thousands but millions of His sheeplike people. The prophet Isaiah says of the Lord God that He “will tend His flock like a shepherd” (40:11). Assured and reassured that we are part of His flock, we travel through life following the guidance of our caring Shepherd!

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting One, pg. 151)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* (*LSB* 686)

**KYRIE** (*LSB*, pg. 152-153)

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“This Is the Feast”*(*LSB*, pg. 155)

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 156)

**FIRST READING** Acts 4:1-12 *(bulletin insert)*

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** 1 John 3:16-24 *(bulletin insert)*

**ALLELUIA and VERSE** (*LSB*, pg. 156)

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 10:11-18 *(bulletin insert)*

**HYMN** *“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”* (*LSB* 709)

**SERMON *“Shepherd”***

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 158)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**OFFERTORY** *“What Shall I Render to the Lord”*(*LSB*, pg. 159)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 160-163)

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”* (*LSB* 740)

 *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”* (*LSB* 809)

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** *“Thank the Lord”*(*LSB*, pg. 164)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** (*LSB*, pg. 166)

### BENEDICTION (LSB, pg. 166)

**HYMN** *“Beautiful Savior”* (*LSB* 537)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**