



TO BE MY GOOD SHEPHERD



Easter 4 – April 30, 2023

Grace Lutheran Church – Yorba Linda, CA



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace
in Yorba Linda, the land of gracious living*

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Welcome

- † If you would like to know more about Grace - Yorba Linda, visit our **website** at gracelutheran.church. A **membership** class, a class that covers the basic teachings of the Bible and what it means to be a Christian starts in May. Contact Pastor Sievert for more information. We would also love to share information with you about our Sunday worship services, our weekly Bible Classes, and our youth programs.
- † Bathrooms are located across the breezeway, just inside the entry to our Grace Hall meeting center.
- † Coffee is available in the kitchen of the Grace Hall. Please join us for snacks after worship so we can get to know each other better.
- † We love having children in worship. The family that worships together stays together and what better way for little ones to learn to pray and sing and worship. But we also understand they can have a hard time sitting for a long period of time. A room is available in the back corner of church by the windows which is equipped with toys and books and space for you to watch your children and listen to the service.



*Grace Lutheran Church
is a member of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
and California Lutheran High School*





Worship

Easter 4
April 30, 2023



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY – The 4th Sunday of Easter centers around the beautiful Biblical picture of Jesus caring for us, his flock. May his love and protection lead you from straying to following!

CALL TO WORSHIP



L In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Good Shepherd, the true Shepherd of God's flock, calls each of His sheep by name.

C We have heard His call, and we rejoice to follow Him as sheep in His flock.

L Today we come before our God in full assurance that our Shepherd wants nothing more than to lead us to life-renewing pasture.

All Father in heaven, we must confess that, like sheep, we have gone astray. We turn to our own ways in carelessness and even in willfulness. Too often we are attracted to those who are not our shepherds. We are tempted to think and do things that rob us of life with you. Forgive us, Father, for the sake of Him who is the true Shepherd. We want to hear his voice and to follow Him as sheep of your flock.

L Your Shepherd laid down His life for you as payment for your sin. He is the Shepherd who leaves the 99 behind to find His lost sheep. He is the Gate for the sheep and through Him you come in and go out and find peace. In His name I say to you: Your sins are forgiven!

All Praise God! We were like sheep going astray, but now we have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Christ is risen.

C He is risen indeed.

L Let us pray.

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

[C] Amen. (*spoken*)

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

The early Christians gathered around God's Word together, the quiet waters and green pastures of God's love.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Peter points the suffering Christian to Jesus – the Shepherd of our souls.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

The Good Shepherd theme and much of our music today centers on this Psalm, a Christian favorite.

¹⁸ Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.





THE GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

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.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Shepherd Me O God

SERMON

based on **John 10:11-18**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

ALL 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.

BLESSING

- [L] 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.
- [C] **Amen.**