

**The Old Testament Reading. . . . . Ezekiel 37:24-28**

My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children shall dwell there forever, and David my servant shall be their prince forever. I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."

**The Epistle Reading. . . . . 1 John 3:16-24**

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**The Gospel Readings. . . . . John 10:11-18**

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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Kansas City, Missouri 64118  
816.452.9113**

**"I am the good shepherd. I know my own  
and my own know me..."**



**Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 25, 2021**

**Website: <http://holycrosskc.org>  
Email: [church@holycrosskc.org](mailto:church@holycrosskc.org)**

## Receiving the Lord's Supper at Holy Cross

Our Lord gives both directions and warnings in Scripture when it comes to the precious gift of Holy Communion, which we take great care to follow. A small brochure is available in the pew which describes the importance of the Biblical and historic practice known as "Closed Communion." If you are not under the spiritual care of Holy Cross, please speak with the pastor before communing so that our unity with Christ and with one another may be genuine. Our aim is not to insult, but to instruct and prepare those who earnestly desire to join our communion. So, if you or your children are not yet communicants, you may come forward for a blessing tied to baptism, and you are encouraged to signify this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor comes by. The Blood of Christ is offered either in individual glasses, or simply hold out your hand to take the chalice by the base as you drink from it.

**Notes on the service:** Few Sundays are as well-known for the theme of their Lessons as the Fourth Sunday of Easter, or Good Shepherd Sunday. The theme speaks through the *Collect* and the *Hymn of the Day*, together with the beloved Psalm 23. The Theme reflects the dynamic message of the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep (*Gospel*). The sweet comfort of this day is set in the context of a Savior strong enough to suffer and die on behalf of His sheep. You are one of those sheep! He knows each of His sheep by name. What a consoling thought when we see so much turmoil and danger all around us. As we, together, worship the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, may His grace enable you always to be a part of the flock and follow Him to eternal life.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY:

**P:** Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that, when we hear the voice of our Shepherd, we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Organist. . . . . Myla Miller  
Communion Elder. . . . . Curt Wendt  
Ushers. . . . . Rich Rusche & Carl Pigors

## Psalm 23



I am the good | shepherd.\*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my  
life | for the sheep.

**The LORD is my | shepherd;\***

**I | shall not want.**

He makes me lie down in green | pastures.\*

He leads me beside still | waters.

**He re- | stores my soul.\***

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

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no  
evil, for you are | with me;\*

your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my | enemies;\***

**you anoint my head with oil; my cup | overflows.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,\*

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for- | ever.

**All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning, \***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

I am the good | shepherd.\*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my  
life | for the sheep.

*Note: Standing and Kneeling are optional*

**10:00 A.M.**

**Divine Service Setting One—LSB 151**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Hymn—LSB #478**

**Confession and Absolution—LSB 151**

**Service of the Word—LSB 152**

**Introit—Psalm 23 (printed at left)**

**Kyrie - LSB 152-153**

**Hymn of Praise - This Is the Feast - LSB 155**

**Collect of the Day**

**The Lessons: (printed on back)**

**Hymn of the Day - LSB #709**

**Sermon - "He Dwells With Us"**

Text: Ezekiel 37:24-28

Rev. Paul Deterding

**The Nicene Creed - LSB 158**

**Prayer of the Church - LSB 159**

**Offering**

**Offertory - LSB 159-160**

**Service of the Sacrament—LSB 160**

**Sanctus - LSB 161**

**Lord's Prayer (right column) - LSB 162**

**Agnus Dei - LSB 163**

**Distribution - LSB 164**

Hymns—LSB #729

LSB #710

LSB #524

**Thank the Lord - LSB 164**

**Benediction - LSB 166**

**Closing Hymn—LSB #740**

**Postlude**