

Saron Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Julie Brooks, Pastor

Fourth Sunday in Easter May 3, 2020

While we cannot gather in person, we can dedicate this time and space together to pray, hear the word of God and receive the gift of God's Presence. Today, we will be sharing the Lord's Supper/ Holy Communion at your individual location. You are invited to have a piece of bread or cracker and a little wine or juice with you. Later in the service, the pastor will be giving thanks and saying the ancient words of Christ's promise to show up in these simple things. You will be invited to partake of them at that time.

Gathering

You may choose to set out and light a candle, a bowl of water as a reminder of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and bread/ cracker with wine/ juice.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be agitated, splashed or poured into the bowl.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Word

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.

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

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

When 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. He 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. For 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.

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.

'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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger,

but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The 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.

Sermon

Pastor Julie Brooks

Hymn

The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877

Music: St. COLUMBA, Irish tune

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Prayers of Intercession

Response: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Receive Holy Communion

Hear these words and partake of the bread/ cracker and wine/ juice:

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word, and our hearts burn within us.

Through this meal you have opened us to your presence.

Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn

As The Deer

*As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield.
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.*

Dismissal

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Welcome to this online version of Saron Lutheran Church and Blessed Easter! We are happy that you are worshiping with us this morning. We pray your worship is meaningful and enhances your spiritual life. Please check our website for regular updates during this time of dispersed worship.