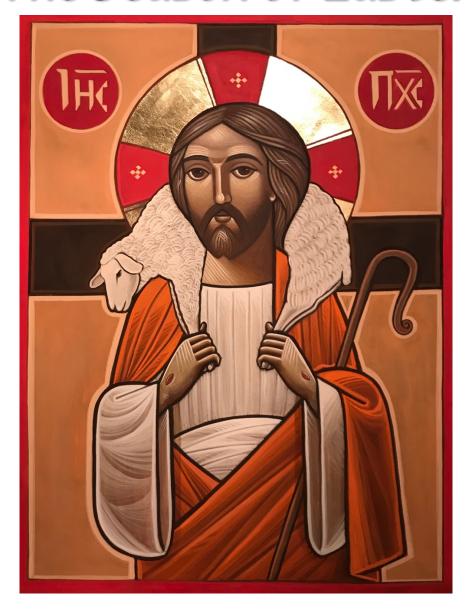
# The Season of Easter



The Good Shepherd (Neo-Coptic Icon)

Dr. Stéphane René

April 25, 2021

# **Advent Lutheran Church**

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"Love God, Serve Neighbor

#### **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

#### **Prelude**

"The Day of Resurrection"

Morning Chimes

## **Call to Worship**

L: We gather together to worship God, the Shepherd of our souls.

The one who has created us, who sustains us, who redeems us, who walks beside us in good times and bad, and who calls us to follow.

This is our God!

Let us worship together!

C: Amen.

# **Confession & Forgiveness**

L: Loving God,
You made us,
You shaped us,
You gave us breath,
Yours is the love that endures,
Yours is the wisdom and peace we seek.

Lord Jesus Christ,
You know each name,
You know each need.
You come looking for us when we stray,
and shepherd us into the ways of truth and life.

Holy Spirit of wind and fire, in all the activity of our busy lives, make us to lie down in green pastures, away from the world's ceaseless noise, lead us to quiet waters.

Silent reflection

L: God of surprising grace, in a world of great plenty, the suffering of the poor and hungry is unending, and we are ashamed that we take for granted many of the basic essentials of life others are denied.

In a world of great beauty, our inhumanity to one another seems to know no bounds and while many nations are in turmoil, human beings carry out acts of callous violence toward one another.

We confess too our own failures of kindness and care when we have caused one another hurt and disappointment.

#### Silent reflection

L: God, shepherd of our souls, let your rod of love and staff of guidance comfort us. Lead us out of the dark valleys and renew us in faith, hope and love in Christ our Lord.

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep, teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command that all your people may be gathered into one to the glory of God.

C: Amen.

# **Easter Greeting**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

#### **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

# **Prayer of the Day**

L: Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us.

When we face darkness and death, walk beside us.

When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.

When we are fearful, feed us at your table.

May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.

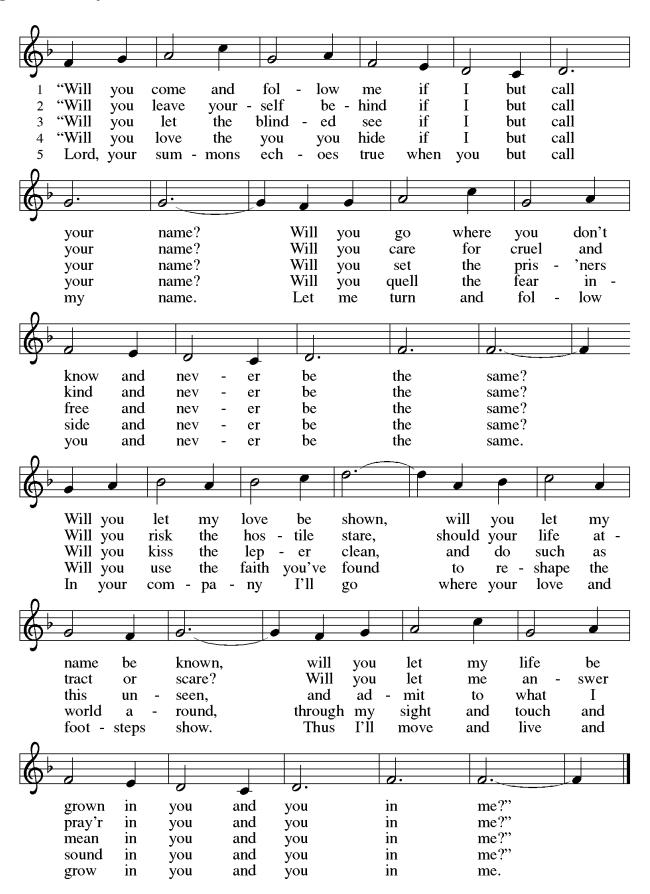
C: Amen.

**The First Reading** Psalm 23 Sharon Thrower

**Gospel Acclamation** "Word of God Speak"

The Holy Gospel John 10:11-18

The Message



## **Prayers of the Faithful**

L: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we gladly join today in prayer and praise with your Church the world over. We thank you for the many gifts that enrich life's experience, the love we share and friendships we enjoy, the work we do and interests we pursue.

For all these gifts, and more,

## C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, keep us close to you so that we can learn to love as you love, teach as you teach, care as you care, and lead as you lead.

For all this, and more,

#### C: Hear our prayer.

L: Risen Jesus, break our hearts for what breaks yours. We pray for all our brothers and sisters, who have been victims of unjust policing practices, especially for the families and friends of those who have lost their lives as a result . . . (give time for community to pray). We give thanks for the justice served in the death of George Floyd, but we pray for our country and the ongoing work of seeking justice for all people. With confidence we pray:

#### C: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, you tend to all our needs. Make your presence known to those who struggle, suffer, and are in pain or sorrow. Guide those who are lost and those who filled with worry and fear. Protect those who are in harm's way, heal those who are ill, and mend those who are broken, as only your love can.

#### We especially pray for:

- Josh Baker
- Lindsay Baker
- Lemont Bell
- Dallas Collins
- Jordan Doctor
- Eileen Folkerth
- Mary Jo Gouge
- James Hall family
- Richard Henderson
- Donnell Horton
- Nylah Howard
- Waylon Kuklentz
- Amy Leonard
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Billy Mercer family

- Rick Messina
- Lucy Mullis
- Judy Murphy
- Leo Peeler
- Joan Readling
- Kalvin Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- Spillars and Dunn families
- David Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- Velia Watson
- Jenny Weems
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

- L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (give time for community to pray).
- L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:
  - · Kathleen Basilice, mother of John Basilice
  - Charlie Anderson, friend of Pastor Ward
  - Mike Spillars, brother-in-law of friend of Jennifer Canipe
  - · Frank Tirro, friend of Pastor Ward
  - · Jessica Embry, friend of Jennifer Frisina

By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

- L: For all these people, and the concerns known only by you,
- C: Hear our prayer.
- L: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus. We are grateful for the development of a vaccine and for those who are assisting in making it available. Strengthen, encourage, and empower us to be people of peace in the midst of anxiety, impatience and worry. With confidence we pray:
- C: Lord, hear our prayer.
- L: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, you hear the prayers we've spoken and the ones still unknown to us. By your Holy Spirit, give us peace as we trust you with the timing and the answers you provide. May our place ever be within the sound of your voice and our homecoming one of welcome and celebration; all of this we ask in your name.
- C: Amen.

#### SHARING THE MEAL

## The Words of Institution

# The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

C: 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.

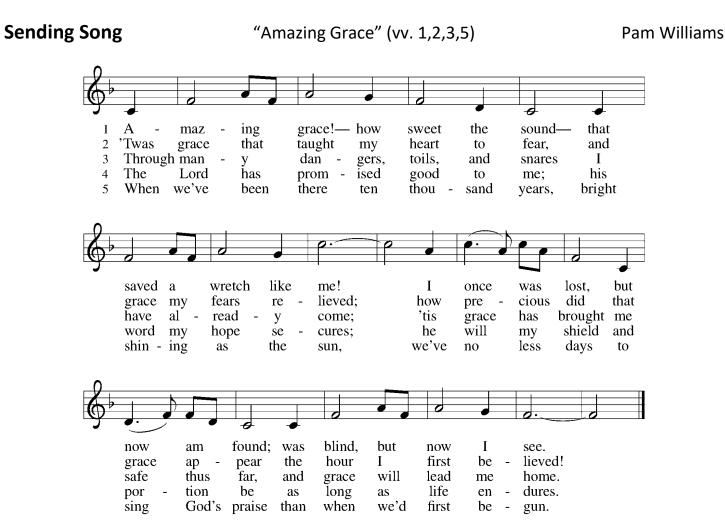
## **SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE**

## **Benediction**

L: May God give you a place of rest in the richest of pasture.

May Christ be the shepherd king who binds all your wounds.

May the Holy Spirit fill you with goodness and mercy all the days of your life.



#### **Dismissal**

- L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.