

# The Season of Easter



*The Good Shepherd (Neo-Coptic Icon)*

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**“Love God, Serve Neighbor**

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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

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**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!**

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## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

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### **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**



1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as -  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

## 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 Kuklantz
- Amy Leonard
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Billy Mercer family
- Rick Messina
- Lucy Mullis
- Judy Murphy
- Leo Peeler
- Joan Readling
- Calvin 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.**

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## SHARING THE MEAL

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### 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.**

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## SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

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### 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.

### Sending Song

“Amazing Grace” (vv. 1,2,3,5)

Pam Williams



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

### Dismissal

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