

Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ May 3, 2020

THEME: Our Good Shepherd provides under-shepherds to care for his flock.

HYMN 374: "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

SERVICE OF THE WORD – Page 38

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

LESSON: 1 Peter 2:19-25 (EHV)

Peter exhorts Christians to follow their Shepherd who has recalled them to himself for his mercy's sake. Especially in times of suffering, they should remember the redemptive suffering of Jesus who died for them, and whose suffering leaves them an example to follow.

2:19 For this is favorable: if a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly because he is conscious of God. For what credit is it to you if you receive a beating for sinning and patiently endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is favorable with God. Indeed, you were called to do this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you would follow in his steps. He did not commit a sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When he was insulted, he did not insult in return. When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 23 (p.72) (spoken / sung in unison)

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:1-10 (EHV)

Jesus depicts himself as shepherd and sheep-gate in two brief parables. First, he is the shepherd who is contrasted with false shepherds. He enters the sheep pen rightfully and is recognized by the sheep. Secondly, he is the door to the sheep pen through which they exit to find pasture.

10:1 "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this illustration in speaking to the people, but they did not understand what he was telling them. So Jesus said again, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: I am the door for the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. "A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

HYMN 360: "The Lord's My Shepherd; I'll Not Want"

SERMON TEXT: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60 (EHV)

We see Stephen and his martyrdom. Stephen speaks words of rebuke to those who shun the Good Shepherd, and he subsequently suffers at their hands. He dies speaking words of forgiveness reminiscent of his Lord's words and is taken in peace to his Savior's caring arms.

6:1 In those days, as the number of disciples was increasing, a complaint arose from the Greek-speaking Jews against the Hebrew-speaking Jews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve called together the whole group of disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers, carefully select from among you seven men with good reputations, who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. We will put them in charge of this service. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word." 5 This proposal pleased the entire group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch. 6 They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 The word of God kept on spreading, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly. Also a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

8 Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. 9 Some men who were from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia) rose up and disputed with Stephen. 7:2 Stephen said, "Gentlemen, brothers and fathers, listen! 51 "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit! You are doing just what your fathers did. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who prophesied the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers — 53 you who received the law as transmitted by angels, but did not keep it." 54 When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 He said, "Look, I see heaven opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." 57 But they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and rushed at him with one purpose in mind. 58 They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" 60 Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." After he said this, he fell asleep.

SERMON THEME: The Good Shepherd Blesses You with Under-shepherds

1. That spend their lives serving
2. That exercise their faith in preaching
3. That look forward to reuniting with their Savior

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AMEN (spoken)

BLESSING

AMEN (spoken)

HYMN 375: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISMISSAL

May 3, 2020 Announcements

Mini Sunday Worship Continues: Sunday Worship is offered as a sign-up of 10 members maximum for two mini-services at 9:00 a.m. OR 10:00 a.m. YOU MUST SIGN-UP TO ATTEND. We cannot have more than 10 people here at a time. Please do not arrive more than 10 minutes before Worship is scheduled to begin. Please leave church immediately after Worship has concluded and kindly take your Worship bulletin with you.

To sign-up for Worship: Sign-up sheet is on the table at the back of church or call (920) 233-1379. (There are several pencils to use to sign-up. Please feel free to use a pencil and take it with you.) *We intend to hold to this worship process unless our Government changes rules and/or guidelines for gatherings.*

Cinco de Junio (Fifth of June) Celebration (Tentatively, of Course): Potluck Mexican food night! Think up your favorite Mexican recipe and bring it to share! Starting at 5:00 p.m.—till ? Watch our weekly bulletins for updates on this event. Please call the church office with inquiries.

Pastor is available for personal counseling and/or individual communion. Call directly (920) 495-3259 to set-up a day and time that is convenient.

Immanuel Is Also Exploring the idea of a Saturday 5:00 p.m. Worship (Memorial Weekend through Labor Day Weekend) to accommodate member's diverse summer schedules. What do you think?

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS		Office Hours this week:	
Budgeted Need per week	\$3,120.00	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 a.m. - Noon	
Budgeted Received 04-26-20	\$9,909.76	Any day	Call for private communion (920) 495-3259
Budgeted Need to date	\$53,040.00	Sunday	9:00 a.m. Communion Service
Budgeted Received to date	\$61,935.01	Sunday	10:00 a.m. Communion Service

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