

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn

#### 605 Father Welcomes

ref Father welcomes all His children  
 To His fam'ly through His Son.  
 Father giving His salvation,  
 Life forever has been won.

1 Little children, come to Me,  
 For My kingdom is of these.  
 Life and love I have to give,  
 Mercy for your sin. Refrain

2 In the water, in the Word,  
 In His promise, be assured:  
 Those who are baptized and believe  
 Shall be born again. Refrain

3 Let us daily die to sin;  
 Let us daily rise with Him,  
 Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,  
 Live in the peace of God. Refrain

Text: Robin Mann, 1949

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### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\cdot\text{I}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.  
 Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.

### Prayer Before Confession

**P** Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### Confession of Sins

LSB 291

**C** O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**C** Amen.

**P** Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

**C** Yes.

**P** Let it be done for you as you believe.

### Declaration of Grace

LSB 151

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn

### 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

- 1 I am Jesus' little lamb,  
Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me ev'ry day the same,  
Even calls me by my name.
- 2 Day by day, at home, away,  
Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,  
Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go  
Where the quiet waters flow.
- 3 Who so happy as I am,  
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?  
And when my short life is ended,  
By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast,  
There within His arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941  
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## Psalmody

- P** Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**C** O come, let us worship Him.

### Psalm 23

*Psalm 23; antiphon: v. 4*

- <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup>**He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**  
<sup>3</sup>He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup>**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.**  
<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

- P** Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**C** O come, let us worship Him.

### Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

### Prayer 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.

## Readings from Holy Scripture

### First Reading

*Acts 20:17–35*

- L** A reading from Acts, chapter 20.

<sup>17</sup>Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup>And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup>servicing the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup>how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was

profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup>testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup>except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup>But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup>And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup>Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, <sup>27</sup>for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup>Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup>I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup>and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. <sup>32</sup>And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup>I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup>You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup>In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*Revelation 7:9–17*

**L** A reading from Revelation, chapter 7.

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup>I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>"Therefore they are before the throne of God,  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

<sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;  
the sun shall not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat.

<sup>17</sup>For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of living water,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn

### 735 Have No Fear, Little Flock

- 1 Have no fear, little flock;  
Have no fear, little flock,  
For the Father has chosen  
To give you the Kingdom;  
Have no fear, little flock!
- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;  
Have good cheer, little flock,  
For the Father will keep you  
In His love forever;  
Have good cheer, little flock!
- 3 Praise the Lord high above;  
Praise the Lord high above,  
For He stoops down to heal you,  
Uplift and restore you;  
Praise the Lord high above!
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;  
Thankful hearts raise to God,  
For He stays close beside you,

In all things works with you;  
Thankful hearts raise to God!

Text (st. 1): Heinz Werner Zimmermann, 1930; (sts. 2–4): Marjorie A. Jillson, 1931–2010  
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## Responsory (Easter)

LSB 222

- P** Sing to the Lord and bless His name, proclaim His salvation from day to day.  
**C** Give to the Lord all glory and strength, give Him the honor due His name. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**P** Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that sleep.  
**C** Give to the Lord all glory and strength, give Him the honor due His name. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Give to the Lord all glory and strength, give Him the honor due His name. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

John 10:22–30

- P** A reading from the Gospel of John, chapter 10.

<sup>22</sup>At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ

## Nicene Creed

- C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day

### 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
 Much we need Your tender care.  
 In Your pleasant pastures feed us,  
 For our use Your fold prepare.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 You have bought us; we are Yours.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 You have bought us; we are Yours.
- 2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,  
 Be the guardian of our way;  
 Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,  
 Seek us when we go astray.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 Hear us children when we pray.  
 Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
 Hear us children when we pray.
- 3 You have promised to receive us,  
 Poor and sinful though we be;  
 You have mercy to relieve us,  
 Grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free.

Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Early let us turn to You.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
Early let us turn to You.

- 4 Early let us seek Your favor,  
Early let us do Your will;  
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,  
With Your love our spirits fill.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,  
You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Sermon

## *“My Shepherd”*

John 10:22-30

## Prayer

### Prayer of the Church

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.  
**C** And let my cry come to You.

### Lord’s Prayer

- 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.

## Offering

### Concluding Prayer

- 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.

### Benedicamus

LSB 228

- P** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

LSB 166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and +I+ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

### Closing Hymn

#### In the Garden

TOSB 261

- 1 I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses

- Refrain And He walks with me  
And He talks with me  
And He tells me I am His own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there  
None other has ever known

- 2        He speaks and the sound of His voice  
          Is so sweet the birds hush their singing  
          And the melody that He gave to me  
          Within my heart is ringing. *Refrain*
- 3        I stayed in the garden with Him  
          Though the night all around me is falling  
          But He bids me go, through the voice of woe  
          His voice to me is calling. *Refrain*

### **Acknowledgments**

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