

THEME: Your Shepherd and Nothing Less!

Jesus' Word and nothing less is what still shepherds believers through life. A Christian knows their shepherd's voice. We listen when he commands, rest when he gives comfort, and follow when he calls us home.

The Common Service

*If you would like to follow along with the music for this liturgy,
it begins on page 15 in the front of the hymnal.*



- ✘ *The bell rings announcing that Christians are gathering around the Word.*
- ✘ *The minister processes with the acolyte who carries a flame symbolizing that the light of Jesus is with us, and the candles are lit.*
- ✘ *As the acolyte and minister enter, **please stand** to sing the opening hymn.*

OPENING HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is #375 (v.1-3)

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his, And he is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow, My Savior gently leads me;
And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feeds me.
- 3 Confused and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me
And on his shoulder gently laid And home, rejoicing, brought me.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: *(sung)* Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

**C: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*sung*) Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD (*Gloria in Excelsis*)

C: (*sung*) Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us. For you only are holy; you only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

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.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

Be seated

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:23-33 (NIV)

²³On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

"Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
²⁶The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one."

²⁷Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all.

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd,*
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;*
he leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul;*
he guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

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.

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**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.**

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:1,2 (NIV)

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 10:14 (NIV)

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Alleluia.

C: *(sung)* **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Please stand for the highlight of the service: the Gospel.

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18 (NIV)

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:

C: *(sung)* **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life — only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Lord's My Shepherd; I'll Not Want #360

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me The quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul he doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for his own name's sake.

- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy, all my life, Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling-place shall be.

SERMON

Text: 1 John 3:1-2

Theme: "See this great love!"

Please stand

CREATE IN ME

**C: (sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Amen.**

Be seated

OFFERING

The members of St. Mark have joined together to spread God's message both in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. You are our guests, and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to share God's Word with you! Those who wish to give an offering may give electronically through our website, scan this QR code, or mail a check to church. Website and mailing addresses are listed at the top of page 1.



CHOIR SONG

"Seek Ye First"

RITE OF CONFIRMATION (10:30 AM)

Those being confirmed stand.

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to the Lord's command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

M: Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

Response: I do.

M: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

R: I do.

M: Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

R: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

M: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

R: I do.

M: Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

R: I do.

M: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

R: I do, and I ask God to help me.

The minister addresses the congregation.

M: Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for these confirmands, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in them. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray.

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, in Baptism you made these sisters members of the body of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. You washed them by his blood, buried them with him in his death, and gave them a new life in his resurrection. Renew them by the Holy Spirit, which you have poured out on them generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. Let them live out their lives as heirs of eternal life. Lead them to serve your Church in holiness and righteousness all their days. Keep them in fellowship with all who wait for the return of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

M: Sisters in Christ, what we as a Christian congregation have here asked our heavenly Father to confer on both of you, we now ask him to give each of you individually.

The confirmands, in turn, come forward and may kneel. The minister may lay his hand on the head of each one.

M: **Miriam Esther Bitter**, may God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

✠ **1 Thessalonians 5:10** (NIV) He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

M: **Emma Grace Buck**, may the Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, renew and increase in you the gift of the Holy Spirit, to the strengthening of your faith, to your growth in grace, to your patience in suffering, and to the blessed hope of eternal life.

✠ **Hebrews 6:19** (NIV) We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

After all the confirmands have received the blessing, the minister dismisses them, saying:

M: Your church now invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's Table as a precious privilege given you by God through his Church; receive this Sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God—Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.

The Sacrament

At St. Mark we practice the custom of Close Communion, inviting to our altar only confirmed members of our church body, the WELS, and of those in fellowship with us. We do this because Communion is also a sign of Christian unity, based upon agreement on the doctrines of the Bible. This is not an insult to our Christian brethren in other denominations, but a recognition of differing church teachings. We, with all Christians, look forward to the day when we will all sit together in peace at the marriage feast of the Lamb. (See 1 Corinthians 10:17 and 1 Corinthians 11:27-29)



If you wish to follow along with the music for the communion liturgy, it begins on page 21 in the front of the hymnal.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: *(sung)* **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *(Sanctus)*

C: *(sung)* **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts; heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *(Agnus Dei)*

C: *(sung)* **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *(as time permits)*

I Come, O Savior #310

1 I come, O Savior, to your table, For weak and weary is my soul;
O Jesus, you alone are able To satisfy and make me whole.

Refrain: Lord, may your body and your blood Be for my soul the highest good!

2 Oh, grant that I in manner worthy May now trust solely in your Word,
And, conscious of the sins before me, Look only unto you, O Lord. *Refrain*

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet you your lamb will banish never, Nor will your faithfulness depart. *Refrain*

4 Oh, let me loathe all sin forever As death and poison to my soul,
That I through willful sinning never May see your judgment take its toll! *Refrain*

5 Your heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to you in faith are turning; So let me, too, come trustingly. *Refrain*

- 6 Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed.
Receive me graciously and gladden My heart, for I am now your guest. *Refrain*
- 7 You here will find a heart most lowly That feels unworthy in your sight,
That duly weeps o'er sin, yet solely Your merit pleads, as it is right. *Refrain*
- 8 By faith I call your holy table The testament of your deep love,
For by your gift I now am able To know the heart of God above. *Refrain*
- 9 What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*
- 10 This feast is manna, wealth abounding Unto the poor, to weak ones pow'r,
To angels joy, to hell confounding, And life for me in death's dark hour. *Refrain*
- 11 Your body, giv'n for me, O Savior, Your blood, which you for me have shed —
These are my life and strength forever; By them my hungry soul is fed. *Refrain*
- 12 With you, Lord, I am now united; I live in you and you in me.
No sorrow fills my soul; delighted, It finds its peace on Calvary. *Refrain*
- 13 Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is near, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise. *Refrain*
- 14 Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer,
For he who is of death the master With help and strength is always near. *Refrain*
- 15 My heart has now become your dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, your praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. *Refrain*

Please stand

DISMISSAL

At the end of the distribution, the minister will pronounce the blessing.

SONG OF SIMEON (*Nunc Dimittis*)

- C:** (*sung*) **Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face
of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.**

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: *(sung)* **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: *(sung)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is #375 (v.4-6)

- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still, Your cross before to guide me.
- 5 You spread a table in my sight, A banquet here bestowing;
Your oil of welcome, my delight; My cup is overflowing!
- 6 And so through all the length of days Your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise Within your house forever!



At the end of the service, the acolyte extinguishes the candles and carries the flame out of church to symbolize that the light of Jesus goes with us into the world.



Let us know you worshipped with us!

If you take a picture of this QR code with most smartphones it will take you to our Friendship Register and Online Connection Card. You may also visit: stmarksbemidji.org/online-connection-card/

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