

Northeastern Minnesota Synod  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 3, 2020

**GATHERING**

*Notes on the Worship Service*

Bishop Aitken has given all our Rostered Ministers the week-end of May 1-3 off in honor of their faithful work and tireless efforts at ingenuity during the “Stay at home” period. This liturgy and sermon is for use in congregations across the Northeastern Minnesota Synod. It was videoed at Knife River Lutheran Church, Knife River, Minnesota. Preacher is Bishop Tom Aitken, Assisting Minister is Pr. Susan Berge (Pastor at Knife River Lutheran) and pianist is Carol Carlson. Staff Administrative Assistant Sarah Roe videoed and put together the service. An accompanying written Liturgy is provided for your use and you are encouraged to sing along with the music, read the Psalm together, sing the responses to the prayers of the church, and provide an offering for the ongoing ministries of your congregation. Bishop Aitken reminds us all to continue to stay in place, and worship with your congregation’s or a neighboring one’s online worship services until further notice. God’s peace to all of you during this continued pandemic.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INVOCATION**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, +One God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

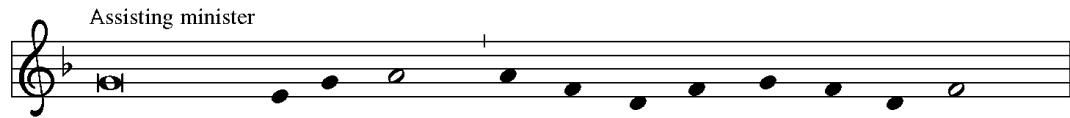
Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN *Glory to God* (ELW pg. 139 sung together)**

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God our Shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Psalm 23**

A Psalm of David.

1The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

3he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

4Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff —  
they comfort me.

5You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

### **GOSPEL:John 10:1-10**

1Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

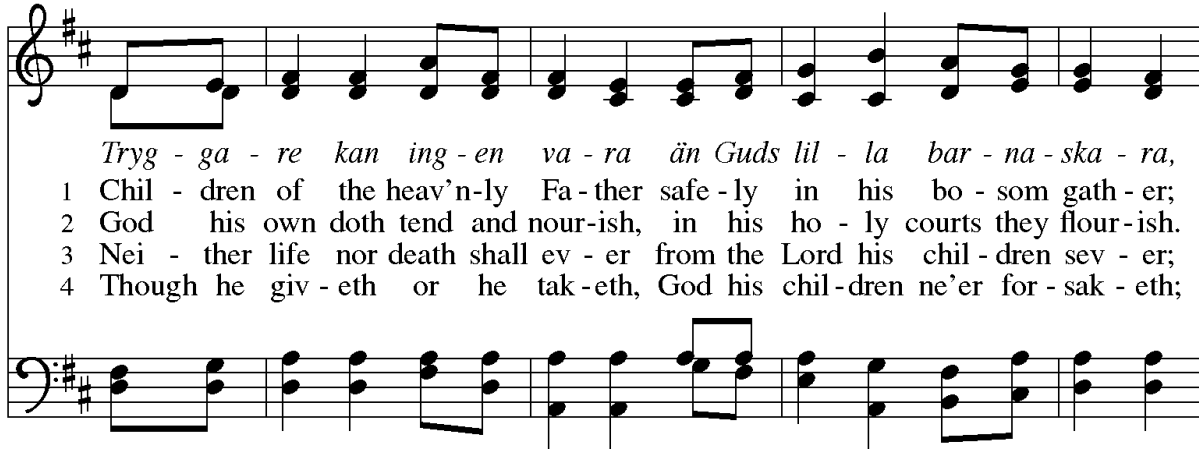
7So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

**SERMON GIVEN BY BISHOP TOM AITKEN**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Children of the Heavenly Father* v. 1&2 (ELW 781)

# Children of the Heavenly Father

## *Tryggare kan ingen vara*



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

### CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Note: After each petition, all sing together "Shepherd me O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life" ELW #780*

All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -  
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

### **MEAL**

#### **OFFERING**

*\*Please give your offering to your local congregation's ministries*

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**HYMN *Now the Green Blade Rises* v. 1 &4 (ELW 379)**

## Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

### SENDING

#### **BLESSING**

The God of all grace,  
+Bless you now and forever,  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* v. 1&2 (ELW 536)

## God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,  
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,  
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

*Refrain*

Till we meet, till we meet, till we  
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we  
 till we meet, till we meet, till we

meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 meet a - gain,

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.