



3rd May 2020
4th Sunday Of Easter
Year A

LITURGY
FOR
THE TIME
IN
LOCKDOWN

Gathering Words:

We are different people;
each one of us unique.
We look different, sound different,
think different thoughts,
hold different opinions,
feel different emotions.
We are not one in the same.
And yet, we gather together in a common faith.
To rehearse our common story,
sing our common song,
give to one common mission of love,
and live into the truth we share:
Christ is risen. Alleluia!

LIGHTING OF A CHRIST CANDLE (optional)

Today we celebrate life over death.
Today we celebrate the flame that lives again.

**In the lighting of the Christ Candle,
we are aware that the power of the resurrection
has forever changed who we are,
and given us the courage
to boldly proclaim a living faith.**



CALL TO WORSHIP:

By the power of God's Spirit
we rise and embrace this day.

**God's Spirit will touch our places of brokenness
and we will be healed,
our eyes will open to new possibilities.**

We come to worship the one who makes us whole,
the one in whose name we serve,
the one who gives our work meaning.

Praise be to God.

THE PEACE

God makes peace within us.
God makes peace between us.
The peace of God is always with us.

OPENING PRAYER:

The Good Shepherd brings us together.

With joy, we join in community to worship and serve.
As the Shepherd has known rejection,
yet you our God care for us.

**When the storm rages, in the midst of the struggle,
we will be secure.**

As the Shepherd has known adversity,
yet you our God lead us.

**In a maze of tough choices,
through the darkest night,
our Guide will show us the Way.**

The Shepherd has known hatred and abuse,
yet you our God, keep on loving.

In life, in death, our Beloved will bring us home. Amen.

SONG: Shepherd Me O God -- Marty Haugen

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=YFgZGlZ5t80>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

When self-serving agendas
dismantle the heart of the ministry we share...

Hold us in your grace

(silence)

When interpersonal conflicts
tear at the soul of community...

Hold us in your grace

(silence)

When history becomes exclusive
and relationships become insular...

Hold us in your grace

(silence)

When expressions of faith
erode the freedom of life-giving Spirit...

Hold us in your grace

(silence)

When the energy of the church is invested
in self-preservation rather than acts of love...

Hold us in your grace

(silence)

When our differences
destroy the foundation we share in Christ...

Hold us in your grace

(silence)



WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Held in a common Love
that is within, between, and beyond all,
we know forgiveness and are formed into
a community of love in all things.
Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God's Word For Us Today



Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet:
a light to our path.



PSALM 23: (NRSV)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

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

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff-- they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely 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.

The Gospel:

John 10:1-10 (NRSV) "Very 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. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

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



Lord, may your word live in us:

And bear much fruit to your glory.





*A Contemporary Reflection
On The Word Can Be Found on The
Anglican Church Mallorca Website*



PSALM 23: paraphrased

Sinking in a sea
of stress and success,
you buoy me
with your living waters
until I am at peace;

running down
endless corridors
to never-ending meetings,
you detour me
to the pathways
leading to your joy;

stumbling through
the thorn bushes
of a culture which seeks
to tear my soul to shreds,
you prepare a picnic
in the garden of grace;

famished and peckish
from wandering
the shadows of sin and death,
you fill me
with sweet-tasting hope;

fleeing
the very life
I convince myself
I am seeking,
you slow me down
so goodness and mercy
can catch up with me
and push me
into your heart.



*Thorn M Shuman
Acorns & Archangels, Wild Goose Pub.*

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

Jesus Christ, voice of encouragement,
we know that you stand among us looking in hope,
and encircling the world with your compassion and care.

We long to join you there
and pray that you will open our minds
so that we can see people through your eyes.

Silent reflection

Speak through us this day, O Christ,
that our voices may be trustworthy
and our lives vehicles for transforming love and justice.
We hold these people and causes before you in prayer today:

The people pray

Stretch out the horizons of care before us we pray.
Call us out of complacency and old assumptions into fresh visions
for the community around us and beyond us.
Make your love be wider and deeper within us
that the world may be carried to new heights of hope.

May we live our lives with your fullness, Jesus Christ,
and try to deliver your riches to others around us.

May we be known in all the world
as the place where people meet the Good Shepherd
and where the inspiration of your Holy Spirit
is never confined to narrow dogmas of belief.

May our life together sing with songs
which tell of surprising dreams for a new future.
Be with us as we go, we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**Most compassionate Life-giver,
may we honour and praise you:
may we work with you to establish
your new order of justice, peace and love.
Give us what we need for growth,
and help us, through forgiving others,
to accept forgiveness.
Strengthen us in the time of testing,
that we may resist all evil.
For all the tenderness,
strength and love are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

(W Wallace)

SONG: Good Shepherd (Lead On) David Ruiz

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7ddy6ta4e9I>

LITANY OF DEDICATION

The Christ Candle is extinguished

On this side of resurrection,
the path is set to a new future;
and our trust is in our God,
for we are never abandoned to death.

We are on a path of life.

Here we meet Jesus with us,
walking the road beside us.
He sets the way before us,
on the path of life.

The pilgrimage continues,
the journey keeps on keeping on,
calling us into the world,
and beyond,
for we are on the path of life.

The Way of Peace.
The Roadway to the future.
A heritage of joy.
Amen

BLESSING

The Christ Candle is extinguished

Coming and going
God watches over us
Resting and travelling
God watches over us
Through good and through evil
God watches over us
All the days of our lives
God safeguards us with love
Amen

REFLECTIONS ON PSALM 23

Blessed relief
God keeps a cool café.
What more could I ask?
She provides a comfortable chair
to take the weight off my weary feet;
she puts up an umbrella
to shade me from the sun;
she serves me iced tea.

Though I have battled with the crowds
at the bargain counters,
though I have suffered the scent
of too many sweaty bodies,
I don't care.

I know what's waiting for me
at the end of the day.
An ice cream cone.
It drips over the edges,
and I lick it up gratefully.
I close my eyes;
the sound system
plays the gentle chuckles of waves
lapping on a shore.
I am content.
I would love to sit here forever.
In God's cool café.

James Taylor, *Everyday Psalms*,
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