

Sunday, March 22 LIVESTREAMING

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mooresville

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS AND GATHERS US

Prelude – 780 Refrain only – Shepherd Me O God... (sung through 3x)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Let us pray: (Martin Luther's Morning Prayer)

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(please share the peace of Christ safely with those around you in your home – yes, even with your pets)

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US HEAR AND RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

The Revised Common Lectionary Bible Readings for today:

1 Samuel 16:1-13 David is chosen and anointed to be king)

Psalm 23 "The Lord is my shepherd..."

Ephesians 5:8-14 "Awake from sleep, live as children of light"

John 9:1-41 Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

Hymn 780 *Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.*
(We sing this refrain 2 times through; and again at the “**R**” during the Psalm)

Psalm 23 (let us pray together):

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. **R**

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. **R**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter (John 9:1-8 and 10:14-21)

Glory to you, O Lord.

Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, “Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?” Jesus said, “You’re asking the wrong question. You’re looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the Light of the world.” He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man’s eyes, and said, “Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam.”

The man went and washed—and saw!

Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, “Wow! Isn’t this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?”

[(Ch. 10) Later on] Jesus said “I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me. In the same way, the Father knows me and I know the Father. I put the sheep before myself, sacrificing myself if necessary. You need to know that I have other sheep in addition to those in this pen. I need to gather and bring them, too. They’ll also recognize my voice. Then it will be one flock, one Shepherd. This is why the Father loves me: because I freely lay down my life. And so I am free to take it up again. No one takes it from me. I lay it down of my own free will. I have the right to lay it down; I also have the right to take it up again. I received this authority personally from my Father.”

This kind of talk caused another split in the Jewish ranks. A lot of them were saying, “He’s crazy, a maniac—out of his head completely. Why bother listening to him?” But others weren’t so sure: “These aren’t the words of a crazy man. Can a ‘maniac’ open blind eyes?”

The Gospel of the Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

You may respond to God’s Word and Message today in a variety of ways: join with us in singing or just meditate on the words that are sung and the melody that is played; you may give an offering online; you may talk with a family member about something you heard in the readings or message; you might write down your own reflections and thoughts about Psalm 23 and/or post some responses on FB; you may get up and go get a drink of water; you may consider marking a water or oily cross on your forehead with your finger to remember your baptism while praying again the verse “Thou anointest my head with oil.”

Hymn 785 When Peace Like a River

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

REFRAIN: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

REFRAIN:

He lives – oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; my sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

REFRAIN:

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.

REFRAIN:



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THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS AND PRAYERS & INTERCEDES WITH SIGHS TOO DEEP FOR WORDS

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us including military and medical professionals, biologists and chemists and scientists trying to provide a solution for Covid19; and for all those who work to bring peace, justice, healing and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are sheltering in place, for those who are sick and suffering – especially

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all servants of the church....

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
(a time of silence follows)

Lord, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forth in good courage, not knowing where tomorrow will lead, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

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.

THE HOLY SPIRIT SENDS US

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen

Sending Song 796 – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

***REFRAIN:* On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. *REFRAIN***

**His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. *REFRAIN***

**When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne! *REFRAIN***

The Lord is your shepherd. Go in peace.
Thanks be to God!

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