



CHRIST OUR SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

PEACHTREE CITY, GEORGIA

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

Peachtree City, Georgia

The Fourth Sunday of Easter ☩ April 30, 2023 ☩ 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Guest Music Leader
Music and the Master young musicians, Worship Leaders

P = Pastor **L** = Lector [reader] **C** Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
⬆ Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

Henry Evans, violin

Welcome to worship! Worship this hour is built around the children's musical, "The Lost Boy."

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

⬆ GATHERING HYMN: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

ELW Hymn 325

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
 all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
 - 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
 when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
 - 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
 when my [heart is full of worry], Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- [New] When I am lost, Lord, walk with me; when I am lost, Lord, walk with me.
 When I'm searching but still can't find him, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual Text is in Public Domain.

⬆ GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

⬆ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. 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
- C** Amen.

LESSON: Psalm 23

—Contemporary English Version

- L** Our Lesson is Psalm 23.
- L** You, Lord, are my shepherd. I will never be in need.
 ²You let me rest in fields of green grass.
 You lead me to streams of peaceful water, ³and you refresh my life.
 You are true to your name, and you lead me along the right paths.
 ⁴I may walk through valleys as dark as death, but I won't be afraid.
 You are with me, and your shepherd's rod makes me feel safe.
 ⁵You treat me to a feast, while my enemies watch.
 You honor me as your guest, and you fill my cup until it overflows.
 ⁶Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life,
 and I will live forever in your house, Lord.

- L** Word of God, Word of Life. **C** Thanks be to God.

↑ **GOSPEL: Luke 2:39-52**

📖 The Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

👉 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

📖 When [Mary and Joseph] finished everything required by God in the Law, they returned to Galilee and their own town, Nazareth. There [Jesus] grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him.

⁴¹⁻⁴⁵Every year Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up as they always did for the Feast. When it was over and they left for home, the child Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents didn't know it. Thinking he was somewhere in the company of pilgrims, they journeyed for a whole day and then began looking for him among relatives and neighbors. When they didn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

📖 ⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸The next day they found him in the Temple seated among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. The teachers were all quite taken with him, impressed with the sharpness of his answers. But his parents were not impressed; they were upset and hurt.

His mother said, "Young man, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been half out of our minds looking for you."

⁴⁹⁻⁵⁰He said, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that I had to be here, dealing with the things of my Father?" But they had no idea what he was talking about.

⁵¹⁻⁵²So he went back to Nazareth with them, and lived obediently with them. His mother held these things dearly, deep within herself. And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

👉 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

OFFERING MUSIC: *Down to the River to Pray*

Shepherd's Flock Ringers

We acknowledge that you may have already offered your gifts electronically or by mail. Thank you.

Music: American Spiritual, arranged by Sandra Eithun



THE LOST BOY

YOUNG JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

A children's musical by Tom S. Long and Allen Pote

CAST

NARRATOR ESTHER: ERIN GAMBREL

NARRATOR REBEKAH, MERCHANT SARAH, and TEMPLE SOLOIST ODELE: OLIVIA MILBURN

NARRATOR JACOB and JESUS: JONAS BARBOUR

MARY: BREANNA BROADWELL

JOSEPH: PRESTON STEELE

ELIZABETH: MARIAN GROOVER

ZECHARIAH: IAN-DANTE OKORONKWO

MERCHANT HANNAH and TEMPLE SOLOIST SHIRA: CHARLOTTE POINTEK

GAMBLER AARON and TEMPLE WORSHIPER ANDREW: CARTER WALLACE

BEGGAR MATTHIAS and TEMPLE WORSHIPER MICAH: MARK STEELE

RICH LADY NAOMI: HOPE SIEBER

BANQUETER RUTH: ELLE WINIARCZYK

BANQUETER PHINEAS and TEMPLE WORSHIPER PHILIP: FINN GUNDERSEN

BANQUETER ANNA and TEMPLE WORSHIPER ARIEL: ANNAHBELLA OLIVER

TEMPLE WORSHIPER CALEB and MUSICIAN ASAPH: HENRY EVANS

1. NARRATION/ SCENE 1

♪ *THIS DAY*

Refrain: This day, we celebrate; this day, a holy date.

This day, we will await and sing our God is great!

This day, we lift our voices; this day, no longer slaves.

This day, our land rejoices. This day, our God has saved!

Pharaoh would not bow to Moses. Pharaoh would not bend his knee,

So our God sends down an angel; by his power sets us free.

In the darkest hour of slavery, death is passing overhead

While our loving God protects us by the lamb and by the bread.

Refrain

Seven days we tell the story, seven days till our release.

Seven days we all remember, till we gather at the feast.

Listen, child, prepare an answer. Listen, be quick to say:

Why this night is like no other; why we celebrate this day. **Refrain**

2. NARRATION/SCENE 2

Dialogue: Mary and Joseph; Zechariah and Elizabeth

3. NARRATION

♪ 4. *HOW DID WE FAIL TO NOTICE?*

Mary and Joseph (Refrain): How did we fail to notice? When did we grow so blind?

Why did we get so distracted? Where did we leave him behind?

Life of our life, our heartbeat, closer and deeper than breath,

Giving us reason for living, losing him would be death.

All: Remember the stable the night he was born, the shepherds who knelt in the straw.

Remember them telling of angels who sang, faces shining with awe.

Remember the kings and the gifts they brought; they followed a sign from above.

Remember the time you cradled him first, your spirit ignited with love. **Refrain**

5. NARRATION/SCENE 3

Dialogue: Mary and Joseph

♪ 6. *LOOKING FOR JESUS*

Refrain: Knock till ev'ry door is open. Where could Jesus be?

Keep on looking till you find him; ask until you see.

Knock, ask, (*Where?*) Where would Jesus go?

Knock, ask, (*Where?*) Seek until you know.

NARRATION

♪ **Solo, Merchant:** Buying, selling, buying, selling—we have ev'rything you need.

Buying, selling, buying, selling—we can satisfy your greed.

Do you feel your life is empty? Are you wanting something more?

Feast your eyes on worldly glitter; we've got what you're looking for.

Dialogue: Mary, Joseph, Merchants

Refrain**NARRATION**

Dialogue: Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, Elizabeth

♪ Crowd at the Hippodrome:

Come see the galloping, galloping horses; come see the chariots racing away.

Come hear the cheering and cheering and cheering; come and chase after the thrill of the day.

Come see the galloping horses; wonders sure to excite.

Sad little lives, lacking excitement, find what they're missing when they see the sight!

Dialogue: Mary, Gambler, Joseph, Elizabeth

Crowd: Knock, ask, (*Where?*) Where would Jesus go? Knock, ask, (*Where?*) Seek until you know.

NARRATION

♪ Banqueters: La lala la la, la la la la, la la la la la____. La lala la la, la la la la, la la la la la____.

La lala lala la, la lala lala la, la lala lala la la____. La lala la la, la la la la, la la la la la____.

Dialogue: Beggar, Joseph, Mary, Zechariah, Elizabeth, Rich Person

♪ Banqueters: We were made for finer things, for lives of style and taste.

To give our wealth to those unwashed would only be a waste.

The poor and hungry make us sad; they have our sympathy—

As long as we can shut the door, pretending not to see.

Dialogue: Mary, Banqueters, Rich Person, Joseph, Elizabeth

♪ Banqueters: La lala la la, la la la la, la la la la la____. La lala la la, la la la la, la la la la la____

NARRATION

♪ Crowd: Knock, ask, (*Where?*) Where would Jesus go? Knock, ask, (*Where?*) Seek until you know.

Dialogue: Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Zechariah

NARRATION**7. Scene 4/The Master in the Temple**

Dialogue: Elizabeth, TEMPLE Worshipers Mary, Joseph

♪ Solo:

Refrain: Oh, who is this master we've never seen before, calmly reciting the wisdom of the Lord?

Where is a teacher who is half as smart? Every question pierces to the heart.

Dialogue: Temple Worshipers

♪ Solo: When the lawyers started fighting: "This law's greater! No it's not!"

He asked, "Why not love the Lord with everything you've got?

"For inside every law we know that tells us what to do,

"There's the law to love our God and love our neighbor too."

Dialogue: Zechariah

Refrain

Dialogue: Temple Worshipers

♪ SOLO: He said, "Just because a child has wandered from the rest,

"Do you think that God our Father ever loves them less?

"Every father, every mother I have ever known—

"They would search until they found their child and brought him home."

Dialogue: Elizabeth, Mary

Refrain

8. SCENE 5

Dialogue: Joseph, Temple Worshiper, Mary, Jesus

NARRATION

♪ **HOW DID WE FAIL TO NOTICE? (Reprise)**

How did we fail to notice? When did we grow so blind?
 Why did we get so distracted? Where did we leave him behind?
 Teach us again to know you, teach us to stay at your side,
 Teach us to sing alleluia, praising you with our lives.
 Remember the day when he whispered your name and told you the story was true.
 Remember the moment you gave him your heart—every hour was new.
 Remember the love of the friends you found, a family none can destroy.
 Remember the time he answered your prayer, your spirit surrendered to joy.
 Allelu, Alleluia, our seeking has come to an end; Allelu, Alleluia, in the arms of our savior and friend.
 Allelu, Alleluia, let this be our prayer and our song,
 To be found with the one who loves us in the home where we know we belong.

♪ **9. THIS DAY (Reprise)**⬆ **BENEDICTION**

☞ The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

☞ **Amen.**

⬆ **CLOSING SONG: *This Day***

**This day, we celebrate; this day, a holy date.
 This day, we will await and sing our God is great!
 This day, we lift our voices; this day, no longer slaves.
 This day, our land rejoices. This day, our God has saved!**

⬆ **DISMISSAL**

☞ Go in peace, with God beside you. Invite everyone to Jesus' pathway of joy and life!

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Lectors: IAN-DANTE OKORONKWO, ELLE WINIARCZYK, CHARLOTTE POINTEK

Director of Children and Family Ministry: INGRID HUDSON

Music and the Master Leaders: SUE BYERS, PAT OLIVER, JONI SIEPERT, DAVID BEECHER

Assistant Leader: CHELBY GAMBREL

Costumes and Props: SUE AND DAVE BYERS, KATHIE MANES

Tech Crew: BRAD MILBURN, CAROL JENSEN-LINTON, JONI SIEPERT

Music Assistant/Rehearsal Support: JONI SIEPERT

Ushers: TOM CONRAD AND BEN MCCUMBER

Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by Pamela Gould, in memory of her husband, Gerald.