

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Believing communicants receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

## INTROIT

*Psalm 95:1-3, 6-7a; Antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

*I am the good shepherd.*

I know my own and my own know me,  
and I lay down my life for the sheep.

*Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;*

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;*

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

*For the LORD is a great God,*

and a great King above all gods.

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down;*

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

*For he is our God,*

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

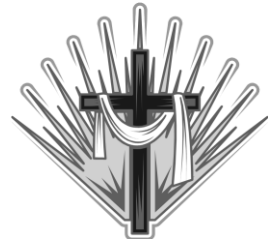
**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*I am the good shepherd.*

I know my own and my own know me,  
and I lay down my life for the sheep.



## COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** *Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**G** *♪[Amen]♪*

## GRADUAL

*adapt. From Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

*Christ has risen from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor,

*He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;*

he has put all things under his feet.

## RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

*After each petition:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy

**G** **hear our prayer.**

## **Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

## **1 Peter 2:19-25 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have

now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## **John 10:1-10 (ESV)**

[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup> This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:42–47

1 Peter 2:19–25

John 10:1–10

### *The Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ Is Our Good Shepherd*

Although we “*were straying like sheep*,” the Lord Jesus Christ has willingly suffered and died for us, bearing our sins “*in His body on the tree*” (1 Peter 2:24–25). We are healed by His wounds (1 Peter 2:24), and in His Resurrection He gathers us to Himself as our Good Shepherd, by whose righteousness we “*have life and have it abundantly*” (John 10:10). Now, through other shepherds whom He calls and sends in His Name, He guards and keeps us in the green pastures of His Church, leading us beside the quiet waters of our Baptism and spreading the Feast of His Table before us. Since He has called us by the Gospel to be His own dear sheep, we also “*hear His voice*” and “*know His voice*” (John 10:3, 4) in the faithful preaching of His Gospel, and we follow Him by faith. When we receive His Gospel, we have the abundant life and common unity of the entire flock under one Good Shepherd, in “*the apostles’ teaching and fellowship*” and in “*the breaking of bread and the prayers*” (Acts 2:42).

### *Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:*

May 7: The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60; Psalm 146 (v.2); 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14