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A WARM WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY...

Before we begin, please:

+ **Sign in the "Fellowship Pad"**, and pass it down your pew. Both visitors and members are asked to fill in their information. You can do this before the service, or during the offering.

+ **Place ribbon bookmarks** at the page for liturgy, and one of the hymns in *Lutheran Service Book*.

+ **Place ribbon bookmarks** at the pages of the Scripture readings in the pew Bibles, if you wish to follow along.

+ **Introduce yourself** to our Pastor, if it's your first time with us; and all are encouraged to greet and get to know their fellow worshippers.

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*In Holy Communion, we joyfully receive Christ's Body & Blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. In participating, we publicly confess our unity in Christ's Body, and a harmony of teaching and practice. Congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have promised to practice close communion. **Guests who desire to commune with us for the first time are asked to speak with the pastor before the service, to answer any questions you may have.** You may also wish to review Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers," on pp. 329-330 in Lutheran Service Book, and refer to the "Before worship" and "Before communing" prayers inside the front cover of LSB.*

If you are not in fellowship with our Synod, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Simply indicate that by folding your arms over your heart while at the communion rail.

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GOD'S WORD TODAY

The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep

Our Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-16). He is not like the hireling, who cares nothing for the sheep and only for himself, who flees when he sees the wolf coming. Rather, Jesus is the Good Shepherd who seeks out His scattered sheep to deliver them (Ezek. 34:11-16). He gathers them and feeds them in rich pasture. He binds up the broken and strengthens the sick. He lays down His life for wandering and wayward sheep. On the cross, Christ bore in His body the attacks of the predators of sin and death and the devil for you that you might be saved. He now lives to restore your soul in the still waters of baptism, to lead you in the paths of righteousness by the voice of His Gospel, to prepare the table of His holy supper before you, that you may dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23). *"For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls"* (1 Peter 2:25).

Psalm 23

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 paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will 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

forever.

Glory be to the Father and ' to the Son*

and to the Holy ' Spirit;

as it was in the be - 'ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. ' Amen.

STEWARDSHIP SENTENCES FROM SYNOD

"And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice." On their own sheep are in great danger. They need a shepherd to guide them. The sheep know the Shepherd's voice – and we delight to go where He leads. Of course, the world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh want to pull us in another direction. Namely, they want to pull us in the direction of death. But following the Shepherd means life. So no matter how difficult the path is that the Shepherd points out: let us follow Him!

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ALTAR FLOWERS.. beautifying the chancel today are placed in honor of St. John's Confirmation Class.

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2017

Order of Service

*LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK
DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE*

PRELUDE

HYMN p.594

"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

μ **LITURGY** p.151

μ **PSALM** bulletin p.3

μ **HYMN OF PRAISE** p.155

This is the Feast

μ **COLLECT OF THE DAY** insert p.3

OLD TESTAMENT Ezekiel 34:11-16 p.915

EPISTLE 1 Peter 2:21-25 p.1295

μ **VERSE** p.156

μ **GOSPEL** John 10:11-16

p.1140

HYMN OF THE DAY p.709

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

SERMON

μ **NICENE CREED** p.158

RITE OF CONFIRMATION (11am) p.272

μ **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** p.159

μ **OFFERTORY** p.159

μ **COMMUNION LITURGY** p.160

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain" p.865

"Shepherd of Tender Youth" p.864

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" p.633

μ **POST COMMUNION CANTICLE** p.643

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

μ **BENEDICTION**

μ **CLOSING HYMN** p.740

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE