

**A Service of Morning Prayer
April 30, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Easter**



“I am the Gate,” 20th century painting by Peter Koenig
from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me. *John 10:14*

CP 658 Filled with the Spirit's Power

1 Filled with the Spirit's power, with one
accord
the infant church confessed its risen Lord.
O Holy Spirit, in the church today
again your power of fellowship display.

2 Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,
that unity may be our great desire.
Give joy and peace; give faith to hear your
call,
and readiness in each to work for all.

3 Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace
in your strong care people of every race.
Like wind and fire with life among us move,
till we are known as Christ's, and Christians
prove.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
**To you all hearts are open,
All desires known,
And from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
That we may perfectly love you,
And worthily magnify your holy name;
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 23 *Refrain:* The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

23:3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

23:4 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.

23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

23:6 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.

A Reading from Acts 2:42-47

2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

2:43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

2:44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;

2:45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

2:46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,

2:47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 564 Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us

1 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be.

3 Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

A Reading from 1 Peter 2:19-25

2:19 For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.

2:20 If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.

2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

2:23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

2:25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 349 All People That on Earth do Dwell

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him, and rejoice.

2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

3 O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

4 For why, the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according John
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 10:1-10

10:1 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.

10:2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

10:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

10:5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

10:6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

10:7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

10:8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.

10:9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 2151368 He Knows My Name

1 I have a Maker
He formed my heart
Before even time began
My life was in His hand

2 I have a Father
He calls me His own
He'll never leave me
No matter where I go

Chorus

***He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call***

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven.
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again
 to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

Loving, saving God, you gave us a shepherd and a gate keeper that we may always know we are cared for. Putting our trust in your promise to always be with us, we bring before you the supplications of our community saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer.

Lord God, we pray for your church that we, your followers and friends may be filled with the spirit of the living God, bursting with new life and enabled to feed the physical, emotional and spiritual hunger of people around us.

- for the Episcopal Church

- for the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada: the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls.

- for Holy Trinity, Edmonton and her Rector, Danielle Key; for the Honorary Assistants, Penny Bruce and Robin Walker; for the Arts Administrator, RJ Chambers; and for the Office Administrator, Janette Chambers

- for the Buyé Diocese and the Gakana Parish and her Rector, Evariste Nsabimana.

- for the people and the community of the Samson Cree Nation.

We pray for those who seek the vocation to which you are calling them, that they may find in you and those around them the guidance they need. We pray for our Bishop, Stephen, our own community of St. Peter's as we discern our future, our guest priests, our ministry team of Alison and Nadine, our wardens, treasurer, and all who work so tirelessly to keep this church alive. Guide them in their ministry among us and this neighbourhood. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Creator God, we pray for the world, where people hunger after justice, freedom and peace, but where people are hungry, homeless and destitute. In love and mercy, help us to feed and care for your lambs. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of peace, we remember before you continents, countries and places where there is violence and killing, massacre, mayhem. Under the guidance of your Holy Spirit, help all people, and leaders with power and influence, to put aside bias and prejudice, so we may understand diversity is part of the richness of our common humanity. Help us to become more compassionate and cultivate the habit of caring and neighbourly love and service. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, within our communities, we remember those standing for election, that their policies may be wise, just and fair. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for neighbours, friends and families, those ill in body and mind, anxious or afraid, depressed and despairing, those lonely, abused and grieving. Today we bring before you those who have requested our prayers:

Sandra... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Helen..... Tony and Mary Jean.....

Bill..... Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Lisa.....

Marijke..... Chrissie, Cathy, and the family..... Diane..... Janelle..... Roald.....

Luci

We ask for your blessing for those giving pastoral love and care, that all may be strengthened in spirit, healed in their minds and hearts and feel your comfort and love surrounding them. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for those who have died and are now enfolded in the love and peace of your kingdom. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light no darkness can quench. We commend to your everlasting care those who have died and those who mourn, Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord, when you came down to lift us up, you became human, that we might share in the divine. You died that we might rise to life immortal. Help us to live as those called to believe, serve and trust in you. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Christ is the King of Glory. Open our hearts to receive him in love and with joy. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect

O God of peace,
 who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,
 that great shepherd of the sheep,
 by the blood of the eternal covenant,
 make us perfect in every good work to do your will,
 and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
 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,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 552 My Heart Looks in Faith

1 My heart looks in faith to the Lamb divine;
his precious blood flows down for these sins
of mine.

3 My heart looks in love to Jesus my friend;
he does my soul strengthen and my life
defend.

2 My heart looks in hope to the Son of God,
he saves, me he leads me on the road he
trods.

4 Faith and hope and love, all to Christ I give;
his servant I will be so long as I live.

The Dismissal

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me. *John 10:14*

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness
working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for
ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.