

# WHAT DO WE DO WHEN OUR ***PLANS*** FALL THROUGH?



A SERIES FOR THE EASTER SEASON

## OUR PLANS FALL THROUGH 3) WHEN WE DON'T WANT TO LISTEN

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

*May 3, 2020*

*At home & parking lot service for during pandemic*

[\(click here for \*\*phone screen\*\* version\)](#)

[\(download audio of service for at home\)](#)



*204 W Airport Rd. Payson, AZ 85541*

*RockOfAges-Payson.com*

We pray this alternative method of gathering encourages you and gives you opportunity to encourage others during this time.

Please keep your radio tuned to **91.1 FM**. Or [download the service audio](#) from the website above.

The church doors will be unlocked for those who might need to use the restroom.

Try to park close to the church doors. If during the preservice you find you are having trouble hearing the broadcast, please text or call pastor Barthel at 928-612-8463.

We are part of a world-wide Christian ministry and support the gospel ministry of the WELS. We'd love to share more with you. You can also visit [wels.net](https://wels.net)



# Service of the Word

*This service focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

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## Hymn

Gathering Rite for Good Shepherd Sunday  
*CW 375 with Scripture Readings*

For this is what the LORD God says. Here I am. I myself will seek the welfare of my flock and carefully search for them.

**As a shepherd searches for his flock when his sheep that were with him have been scattered, so I will search for my flock and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.** (Ezekiel 34)

Hear the word of the LORD, you nations. Declare it in the distant islands.

**He who scattered Israel will gather him and watch over him like a shepherd watching his flock.** (Jeremiah 31)

♪ **The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness fails me never;  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
And he is mine forever.**

♪ **Where streams of living water flow,  
My Savior gently leads me,  
And where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feeds me.**

We all have gone astray like sheep.

**Each of us has turned to his own way.** (Isaiah 53)

Remember my affliction and my homeless wandering, the wormwood and bitterness.

**My soul always remembers, and it has sunk within me.**

Nevertheless, I keep this in my heart.

**This is the reason I have hope:**

By the mercies of the Lord we are not consumed,  
**for his compassions do not fail.**

They are new every morning.

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

**It is good to hope quietly for the salvation of the Lord.** (Lamentations 3)

He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Peter 2)

♪ **Confused and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love he sought me  
And on his shoulder gently laid  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.**

Look, God the LORD will come...  
**Like a shepherd he will care for his flock.**

With his arm he will gather the lambs.  
**He will lift them up on his lap.  
He will gently lead the nursing mothers.** (Isaiah 40)

♪ **In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With you, dear Lord, beside me,  
Your rod and staff my comfort still,  
Your cross before to guide me.**

When Jesus stepped out of the boat, he saw a large crowd.  
**His heart went out to them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.**

He began to teach them many things. (Mark 6)  
**He said, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.** (John 10)

On that day the LORD their God will save them as the flock of his people. For like the jewels of a crown they will shine on his land. (Zechariah 9)

♪ **You spread a table in my sight,  
A banquet here bestowing;  
Your oil of welcome, my delight;  
My cup is overflowing!**

For this is what the LORD God says. "I will lead them into good pasture.  
**There they will lie down in good grazing land.**

I myself will shepherd my flock.  
**I myself will let them lie down, declares the LORD God.**

I will seek the lost. I will bring back the strays.

**I will bind up the injured. I will strengthen the weak."** (Ezekiel 34)

He will stand and shepherd (his flock) with the strength of the LORD,  
**in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.**

They will dwell securely,

**for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.** (Micah 5)

The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.

**He will lead them to springs of living water.**

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Revelation 7)

🎵 **And so through all the length of days  
Your goodness fails me never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
Within your house forever!**

**Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
Within your house forever!**

## Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading

**Acts 2:42-47**

*The early church held the habit of gathering around the Word and Sacrament.*

They continued to hold firmly to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came over every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed.

<sup>46</sup>Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

# Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 23

*Read by the children at Rock of Ages  
The congregation is invited to join in the refrain.*

♪ The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

♪ **The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

He causes me to lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

♪ **The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

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.

♪ **The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

You set a table for me in the presence of my foes.

You drench my head with oil.

My cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life,  
and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

♪ **The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

## Second Reading

### 1 Peter 2:19-25

*God has brought us back to our Good Shepherd.*

For this is favorable: if a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly because he is conscious of God. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it to you if you receive a beating for sinning and patiently endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is favorable with God.

<sup>21</sup>Indeed, you were called to do this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you would follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He did not commit a sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was insulted, he did not insult in return. When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

# Children's Message

*Please share the name and email of a friend who might like to receive spiritual encouragement pictures from the Rock of Ages children this week.*

## Verse of the Day

(John 10:14)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

**Alleluia.**

## Gospel

**John 10:1-10**

*Jesus is our Good Shepherd who calls us by name to guide, protect, and provide.*

Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this illustration in speaking to the people, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus said again, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: I am the door for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

<sup>10</sup>"A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

## Hymn of the Day

**My Shepherd Will Supply My Need**

*Christian Worship 374*

*Led by 4 For Christ & the Children at Rock of Ages*

♪ My shepherd will supply my need --

Jehovah is his name.

In pastures fresh he makes me feed

Beside the living stream.

He brings my wand'ring spirit back

When I forsake his ways

And leads me, for his mercy's sake,

In paths of truth and grace.

**2. When I walk through the shades of death,**

**His presence is my stay;**

**One word of his supporting breath**

**Drives all my fears away.**

**His hand, in sight of all my foes,**

Will still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows;  
His oil anoints my head.

3. The sure provisions of my God  
Attend me all my days;  
Oh, may his house be my abode  
And all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest  
While others go and come,  
No more a stranger or a guest  
But like a child at home.

## Sermon

John 10:1-10



### **“What Do We Do When Our Plans Fall Through?”**

Apr 19: When we're locked in a room. (Jn 20:19-31)

Apr 26: When all we can do is go for a walk. (Lk 24:13-35)

May 3: When we don't want to listen. (Jn 10:1-10)

May 10: When our hearts are troubled. (Jn 14:1-12)

May 17: When we're feeling isolated and alone. (Jn 14:15-21)

May 24: When our minds don't understand God's plans. (Lk 24:44-53)



# Confession of Faith

*Using excerpts from Luther's Large Catechism, Second Article*

If you are asked, "What do you believe in the Second Article, concerning Jesus Christ?" answer briefly:

**"I believe that Jesus Christ, true Son of God, has become my Lord."**

What is it to "become a Lord"? It means that he has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and from all evil.

**Before this I had no Lord and King but was captive under the power of the devil. I was condemned to death and entangled in sin and blindness.**

When we were created by God the Father, and had received from him all kinds of good things, the devil came and led us into disobedience, sin, death, and all evil.

**We lay under God's wrath and displeasure, doomed to eternal damnation, as we had deserved.**

There was no counsel, no help, no comfort for us until this only and eternal Son of God, in his unfathomable goodness, had mercy on our misery and wretchedness and came from heaven to help us. Those tyrants and jailers now have been routed, and their place has been taken by Jesus Christ, the Lord of life and righteousness and every good and blessing.

**He has snatched us, poor lost creatures, from the jaws of hell, won us, made us free, and restored us to the Father's favor and grace. He has taken us as his own, under his protection, in order that he may rule us by his righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and blessedness.**

Let this be the summary of this article, that the little word "Lord" simply means the same as Redeemer, that is, he who has brought us back from the devil to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and now keeps us safe there. The remaining parts of this article simply serve to clarify and express how and by what means this redemption was accomplished — that is, how much it cost Christ and what he paid and risked in order to win us and bring us under his dominion.

**That is to say, he became man, conceived and born without sin, of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin, that he might become Lord over sin; moreover, he suffered, died, and was buried that he might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owed, not with silver and gold but with his own precious blood.**

All this in order to become my Lord. For he did none of these things for himself, nor had he any need of them.

**Afterward he rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed dominion at the right hand of the Father.**

# Prayer of the Church

Christian Worship Page 42

Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

- *Today we pray concerning the friends and family of Scott Kelly who died earlier this week. Scott is a friend of Cindy Hoff. We pray that God bring them through this time of loss and lead them to know his great love in Jesus.*
- *We also pray regarding unknown health issues which are causing concern for Mary Strong; that God bless the doctors with a proper diagnosis and a good treatment outcome; that he removes all fears with his peace.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## **Offerings Gathered**

*Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Our offerings go to support the gospel ministry of our congregation and our national church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The offerings can be dropped near the plate at the door anytime during today's service.*

*At home option: If you are worshipping at home for a time due to caution against the spread of illness please remember to support our ministry. Offerings can be mailed to Rock of Ages Lutheran 204 W. Airport Rd. Payson, AZ 85541*

## **Offering Hymn**

**"I Look to the Shepherd"**

*Sung by 4 For Christ*

## **Prayer**

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace—who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, in connection with his blood, which established the eternal testament— may he equip you with every good thing to do his will, as he works in us what is pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ. To him be glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

**I am Jesus' Little Lamb**

*Christian Worship 432  
Led by the Children at Rock of Ages*

♪ I am Jesus' little lamb;  
Ever glad at heart I am,  
For my shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my needs and well provides me,  
Loves me ev'ry day the same,  
Even calls me by my name.

**2. Day by day, at home, away,  
Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,**

**Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, he bids me go  
Where the quiet waters flow.**

**3. Who so happy as I am,  
Even now the shepherd's lamb?  
And when my short life is ended,  
By his angel hosts attended,  
He shall fold me to his breast,  
There within his arms to rest.**

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## **The Sacrament**

*The congregation is gathering Sundays for small group communion. Contact pastor about joining the next group. He would also be glad to schedule a private communion with any member at home or at church.*

*Each service folder and audio can be found here: [RockofAges-Payson.com](http://RockofAges-Payson.com)*

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## **A Survey**

[Click here](#) to fill out the survey about returning to gathering inside our building.  
You are also welcome to call pastor to share your feedback on the survey questions.

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### **Acknowledgments**

Preservice Trumpet & Trombone: Pastor Tom Barthel & Peter Barthel  
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