**ANTE-COMMUNION SERVICE MAY 3, 2020**

*(Pastor Pam to start)*

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me. *John 10.14*

HYMN Crown Him with Many Crowns, CP 378

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* May his grace and peace be with you.

*People* **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God,

*All* **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.**

*Celebrant* Glory to God in the highest,

*All* **and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High,**

**Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. 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. **AMEN**

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS** (Howard Cyrus)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 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, 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.

ACTS 2:42-47

The Word of the Lord THANKS BE TO GOD

**PSALM 23** (Ritika L.)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER** (Brian Carr)

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. 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. 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. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 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. 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. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. 1 PETER 2:19-25

The Word of the Lord THANKS BE TO GOD

HYMN Breathe on Me Breath of God, CP 649

*(Deacon Jacquie)*

*Reader* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." JOHN 10:1-10

*Reader* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**SERMON: Rev. Roy Shepherd**

HYMN Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! CP 374

*(PastorPam)*

**The Apostles’ Creed**

*Celebrant* Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

*All* **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.**

**The Prayers of the People** (Deacon Jacquie)

*(Fr Roy)*

**Confession and Absolution**

*Celebrant* Dear friends in Christ,

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;

he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.

Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Most merciful God,

*All* **we confess that we have sinned against you**

**in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us,**

**that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy upon you,

pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*All* **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.**

**The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

**Closing Prayer** Deacon Jacquie.

*May we who are merely inconvenienced*

*Remember those whose lives are at stake.  
May we who have no risk factors*

*Remember those most vulnerable.  
May we who have the luxury of working from home*

*Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.  
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close  
Remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips  
Remember those who have no safe place to go.  
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market  
Remember those who have no margin at all.  
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home  
Remember those who have no home.  
As fear grips our country, let us choose love.  
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,  
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.*

***Cameron Wiggins Bell, on the website of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word***

*(Fr Roy)*

**The Benediction**

*Celebrant* May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,

the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the

eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you

may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his

sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever, and the blessing of

God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be

among you and remain with you always.

*People* **AMEN**

**Hymn** God of Grace and God of Glory CP 577

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