

American Lutheran Church
305 Livingston St.,
Filley, NE
May 3, 2020 4th
Sunday of Easter
Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

P: We gather in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ (written by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum)

P: Spirit of life and love, we gather together in different ways this morning, from computer screens, from telephones, from car radios;

C: we gather, reaching out across the wires, waving from a safe distance, to come together in religious community.

P: From living room to front porch to car seat, we gather as we are able, ready to be of service to each other, to the world, ready to build the community of hope and of love, as we face this bright morning.

C: We are apart, but we are together, offering our love, our commitment, our hope, and our prayers, in service to one another and this world.

P: It is a new way, but an old way,

C: that we come together in worship today.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the lesson for today from I Peter the followers of Jesus, are encouraged... "...to follow in his steps."

C: Peter said of Jesus...He committed no sin... P:

And no deceit was found in his mouth.

C: When he was abused...

P: He did not return abuse.

C: When he suffered he did not threaten.

P: He entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

C: We confess that we too often do just the opposite.

P: We sin. We are flawed.

C: We can have wrong and hurtful words come out of our mouths.

P: We often seek revenge on those who wrong us.

C: We do often judge...even unjustly.

P: 1 Peter tells us that Jesus bore our sins on the cross for OUR forgiveness. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the

entire forgiveness of all your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray together,

C: Jesus, you are like a good shepherd. The one we can trust in all things. Come to us in these moments of worship. Help us to sense how it feels to be tenderly cared for in your sheepfold. Enable us to hear your voice calling to us...at all things...in all decisions to be made...whether in times of temptation...or in times of aloneness or sadness or hurting. Guide us to make decisions that will keep us safe...and that will bring you honor. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING: **1 Peter 2:19-25** (NLT)

For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: **John 10:1-10 :1-18** (NLT)

"I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice." Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me* were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved.* They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

MESSAGE - Pastor LuRae

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Written by John van de Laar)

P: Good Shepherd,
Teach us to follow you to care for all that are close to us, to protect those who are threatened, to welcome those who are rejected, to forgive those who are burdened by guilt, to heal those who are broken and sick, to share with those who have little or nothing, to take the time to really know one another and love as you have loved us.

Good Shepherd,
Teach us to follow you to spread compassion to those who are far away, to speak for those who are voiceless, to defend those who are oppressed and abused, to work for justice for those who are exploited, to make peace for those who suffer violence, to take the time to recognise our connectedness, and to love as you have loved us.

Good Shepherd,
Teach us to follow you and to be faithful to calling you gave us to be shepherds in your name.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

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.

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!