

**Year B; Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for April 21, 2024**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Acts 4:5-12
- Psalm 23
- 1 John 3:16-24
- John 10:11-18

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 23*)

One: The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want.

**All: He makes us lie down in green pastures; he leads us beside still waters; he restores our souls.**

One: He leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

**All: Even though we may walk through the darkest valley, we fear no evil; for he is with us; his rod and his staff — they comfort us.**

One: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,

**All: and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole life long.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Acts 4*)

Peter stood before the religious leaders and proclaimed that there is salvation in no one else but Jesus, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved. Let us come before this Savior, Jesus, confess our sins, and ask for his forgiveness and salvation.

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from 1 John 3*)

**Lord Jesus, you demonstrate what true love is. John writes, “We know love by this, that Jesus laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.” We, though, place limits upon our love, and these limits can ensure that it is not true love at all. We fail to help a brother or sister in the faith who is in need and demonstrate that your love does not abide in us. Forgive our sin, and move us to show love as you showed love — dying so that we may have life and be reconciled to God. In our Lord’s name we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from 1 John 3*)

God gives us a command that we should believe and trust in the name of God’s Son Jesus Christ and love one another just as he has commanded us. All who obey Jesus’ commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. Trust in Jesus, abide in him, and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(from Psalm 23)*

**Gracious Lord, you are a sure support — our shepherd even in difficult times. As the Psalmist writes, you have us lie down in green pastures, you lead us beside still waters, you restore our souls, and you lead us on right paths. Even in our darkest times, you are there with us, and you comfort us. In thankfulness for your many blessings, we offer these gifts as a portion of that with which you have blessed us for your work in the world. In the name of our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Amen.**

Elements in this document are based on the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV). Some portions are direct quotes; though, quotation marks and designations are usually left out for ease of use in bulletins and other worship resources. Usually, the Call to Worship is based upon the Psalm of the day and follows that Psalm very closely but modifying it for a leader vs. congregation responsive setting if necessary. Other elements usually deviate more significantly from the text. While they may quote very short sections, they are generally written in the theme of the text. Elements usually designate the book and chapter from which they are derived.

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