This Week's Words for Meditation

The Shepherd's Hands

"My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand." John 10:27-28

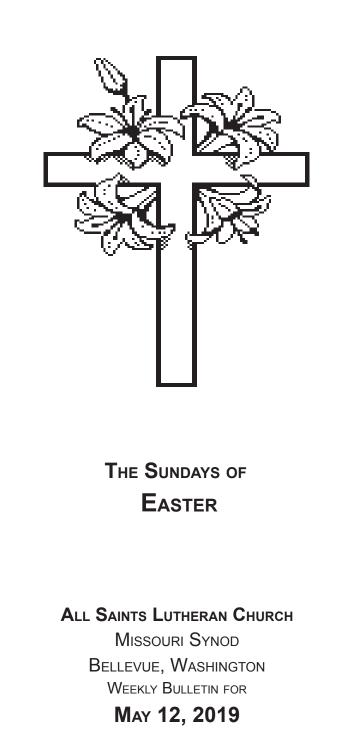
Of all the people you have met, who has the strongest hands? Pastors shake and hold numerous kinds of hands, and many of the clergy would agree that farmers have some of the largest and most powerful hands of anyone around. Evidently, their daily work builds incredible strength in their hands.

The Lord reminds us that as His sheep nothing and no one can snatch us out of the almighty and loving hands of our Good Shepherd. He is the one who gave His life for us, the sheep, when He died on the cross of Calvary. He is the one who rose from the dead and defeated Satan, sin, and death. His conquering and caring hands assure us of a life with meaning and purpose that is for today, but goes on for eternity.

Jesus Christ has us in His powerful grip. We can know and trust in the one who holds us and strengthens us as we listen to His voice and follow Him. His Word becomes His loving and guiding voice as we listen to it, study it, meditate on it, and memorize it. What a comfort to know that with Jesus as our Good Shepherd, nothing can snatch us out of His mighty hands.

> Your hands, O Lord, surround me with comfort and strength. Help me to listen to You and follow You. Amen.

> > Luther C. Brunette



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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER AND MOTHER'S DAY! MAY 12, 2019

WORSHIP THEME: "WHO ARE YOU?" - JOHN 10:22-30

Welcome Visitors! To all who enter the doors of this church, we extend a special greeting. It is our sincere desire that you will find warmth and fellowship here, and that God may give you a beautiful Sabbath day. Please sign our Guest Book in the Narthex, giving your address (including apartment number) and zip code. Please come and worship with us again!

A Note About the LORD'S Supper: The LORD'S Supper will be offered at our 10:45 service this morning. If you have any doubts or questions about your ability and worthiness to receive His Body and Blood in the LORD'S Supper (Holy Communion), speak with Pastor before coming forward. *Please Note:* Should anyone be unable to partake of the wine, we will have a small amount of cups filled with grape juice available in the center of each communion tray for your use. Also, please note that gluten-free wafers are available in a small bowl on the wafer plate for anyone with a gluten allergy.

Altar Flowers are placed to the glory of God by Mary Martha Circle to honor all Mothers in celebration of Mother's Day!

TODAY'S ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Note: In the Gospel text today, Jesus is speaking of His identity. Identity is a powerful thing. Who is Jesus, and who are we?

+ We Lift Our Hearts In Worship +

Pre-service Music and Prayer Time (Please observe a *quiet time* prior to the service to allow for private prayers and meditation.)

+ Welcome and Greeting +

Opening Hymn: #474LSB "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" (v 1, 4, 5)

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light! Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright. Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!" Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. **Refrain:**

City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb, River of life, Saints and archangels, Sing with creation to God the I AM! **<u>Refrain:</u>**

The Invocation

P: King of Kings, You are ruler over all.

C: YOU ARE LORD OF ALL LORDS OVER EVERYTHING!

It is with great joy that we can come and lift up Your name that is holy. We see and know Your sovereignty, and bow our thankful hearts to You.

WE PRAISE YOU, GIVE THANKS UNTO YOU, HONOR YOU, AND HOLD YOU HIGH, OUR ALMIGHTY GOD!

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we come and worship. AMEN!

Opening Prayer

Lord, as we reflect on our lives and our purpose here on earth, we ask for Your presence and power in our lives. Bless us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always find joy in You.

IN JESUS' NAME WE PRAY. AMEN.

+ Time of Confession and Forgiveness +

We once were lost but now we are found by the one Lord who lives and saves.

OUR LORD'S LOVE IS HIGHER AND WIDER AND DEEPER THAN ALL!

(A time of personal reflection and confession)

Lord Jesus, You forgave the thief on the cross. You forgave Your persecutors, the soldiers, the Pharisees; and You forgave us. In our wayward sinful ways, make our paths right and straight and toward You.

WE ACCEPT YOUR FORGIVENESS AND THANK YOU FOR THE LOVE YOU SHOW TO US EVEN IN OUR DARKEST HOURS. WE GIVE YOU THANKS FOR LOVING AND FORGIVING US WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS. AMEN.

Introit of the Day-Psalm 23 (SPOKEN responsively)

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES. HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS.

³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ 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.

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

⁶ SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I SHALL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +

The First Lesson: Acts 20:17-35 (ESV p. 929)

Paul departs for Jerusalem.

¹⁷ Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit,

not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

> Evangelist: This is the Word of the LORD. PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Second Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17 (ESV p. 1032)

The great multitudes in white robes.

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

 ¹⁵ "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.
¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.
¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

> This is the Word of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Hymn: #422LSB "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

On my heart imprint Your image, Bless-ed Jesus, King of grace, That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase; Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me, Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

The Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30 (ESV p. 896) (Please Rise)

Jesus responds to the Pharisees.

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

Pastor: This is the Holy Gospel of the LORD. PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

Children's Message (Parents are invited to bring children forward.)

Message Hymn: #476LSB "Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow" (v 1, 2, 4, 5)

Who are you who walk in sorrow Down Emmaus' barren road, Hearts distraught and hope defeated, Bent beneath grief's crushing load? Nameless mourners, we will join you, We who also mourn our dead; We have stood by graves unyielding, Eaten death's bare, bitter bread.

Who is this who joins our journey, Walking with us stride by stride? Unknown Stranger, can You fathom Depths of grief for one who died? Then the wonder! When we told You How our dreams to dust have turned, Then You opened wide the Scriptures Till our hearts within us burned.

Who are we who travel with You On our way through life to death? Women, men, the young, the aging, Wakened by the Spirit's breath! At the font You claim and name us, Born of water and the Word; At the table still You feed us, Host us as our risen Lord!

"Alleluia! Alleluia" Is the Easter hymn we sing! Take our life, our joy, our worship As the gift of love we bring. You have formed us all one people Called from ev'ry land and race. Make the Church Your servant body, Sent to share Your healing grace!

The Message: "Who Are You?" - John 10:22-30

+ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD +

The Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed: (SPOKEN) (p. 159)

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

AND IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD, WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED AND WAS BURIED. HE DESCENDED INTO HELL. THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD. HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY. FROM THENCE HE WILL COME TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD. I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.

Offerings Unto the LORD!

The Offertory (p.192)

(SUNG) CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD, AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME. CAST ME NOT AWAY FROM THY PRESENCE, AND TAKE NOT THY HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME. RESTORE UNTO ME THE JOY OF THY SALVATION, AND UPHOLD ME WITH THY FREE SPIRIT. AMEN.

+ WE PRAY +

The Prayers (after each petition, please respond with - "Hear our Prayer")

The Lord's Prayer

(SPOKEN) 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.

(The 8:00 a.m. service may proceed to the Benediction)

+ WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER +

The Order of Holy Communion (10:45 a.m. service)

Prepare to Receive the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion

When we come to the altar during the LORD's Supper/Holy Communion: Our congregation requests the potential communion recipient be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. We invite you to read and understand 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Matthew 28:16-20 and Mark 14:23-25 for your understanding of the Holy Communion.

We receive Christ's Body and Blood in, with and under the bread and the wine, for the forgiveness of sins, united in the fellowship of faith and faithful in Christ, Christ's presence and peace.

Here our LORD gives to us His Body and Blood, His sacrifice for us, for the forgiveness of all our sins.

+ We Prepare +

Blessed are You, Lord Jesus Christ! By Your coming to us in the flesh, dying on the cross and rising from the dead You gave us a new covenant. The night You were betrayed, You spent time with Your disciples teaching them about Your body, the bread, and the cup, Your blood, which was poured out for us. You give us new life.

AND NOW WE COME TO OFFER OURSELVES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE TO YOU. AMEN.

The Words of Our Lord (p. 162)

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you.

This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

AMEN.

The Pax Domini (p. 163) (SPOKEN)

The Lord be with you! AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Hymn for The Agnus Dei: #547LSB "The Lamb" (v 1, 2, 4, 5)

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice? Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain: Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering. The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain:**

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.

He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. Refrain:

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows. His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain:**

The Sharing of Christ's Body and Blood for the Forgiveness of our Sins

Hymns as we Commune: #618LSB "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:

Refrain: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. **Refrain:**

Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: **Refrain:**

Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed; Receive me graciously and gladden My heart, for I am now Thy guest. **Refrain:**

What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base; It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. <u>Refrain:</u>

#636LSB "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" (v 1, 2, 3, 4)

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness, Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render. Bless the One whose grace unbounded This amazing banquet founded; He, though heav'nly, high, and holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet Him, And with loving rev'rence greet Him.For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.Open wide the gates before Him, Saying, as you there adore Him;Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, That I nevermore will leave You.

He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure; But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given. Though the wealth of earth were proffered, None could buy the gifts here offered: Christ's true body, for you riven, And His blood, for you once given.

Now in faith I humbly ponder Over this surpassing wonder That the bread of life is boundless Though the souls it feeds are countless: With the choicest wine of heaven Christ's own blood to us is given. Oh, most glorious consolation, Pledge and seal of my salvation!

The Dismissal Blessing

Jesus, You have set us free and blessed us with peace. May we complete Your Great Commission and serve You daily.

BLESS YOUR SERVANTS, LORD JESUS, AS WE STRIVE TO DO YOUR WILL.

The Post-Communion Collect

Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN.

The Benediction

Go now in peace and may the blessing of our Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit go with you.

AMEN!

Closing Hymn: #917LSB "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise" (v 1, 2, 4)

Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise With one accord our parting hymn of praise; Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease, Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way; With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day. Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame, That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life, Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife; Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease, Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

The Sending

Go in peace - Serve the LORD! (SPOKEN) THANKS BE TO GOD!

The Postlude

(This concludes our service.)

