

Listening for the Promise—SOLA Weekly Devotional

“When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” - John 10:4

There is great power in a voice. A voice that shouts can bring numerous conversations to a pause. A shout can startle an unsuspecting individual. A soothing voice may bring calm to the screaming child. Voices are familiar and that familiarity gets our attention. For example, in public I often hear someone shout, “Dad.” I don’t look every time because I know that I am not the one being called. However, when I recognize the word “dad” coming from my son, I know that I am the one whose attention he is seeking.

A voice can also trigger in our minds whether the person speaking is a person we trust. That is one of the issues present in today’s gospel reading. Jesus’ voice is one that the sheep know and trust. Sheep trust the Shepherd with their very lives, expecting the Shepherd to protect them, feed and care for them. Sheep will follow the Shepherd to green pastures and beside still waters (Psalm 23:2). Not all who come to the sheep have their well-being in mind. There are those who willingly or unwillingly lead the sheep to slaughter. We see this today among those false teachers who reject Scriptural teaching and follow the values of the world. Indeed, false teachers play into the susceptibility of those with itching ears who “will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions...” (2 Timothy 4:3).

Of course, Jesus is no ordinary shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Jesus loves the sheep so much that he lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11). Jesus, by his very identity provides for the sheep’s every need. In addition to being the Good Shepherd we know Jesus in these ways:

- I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. – John 6:35
- I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. – John 8:12
- I am the resurrection and the life. - John 11:17

Follow the voice of the Lord, for he is faithful and has given us all that is needed for abundant life now and in the world to come. Amen.

WORSHIP SERVANTS Tonight

Pianist: MarJean Damerval

Scripture Reader/Prayers/Assisting Minister: Julie Steffenson

Sound/Recording: Don Holtan

Thanks for worshipping with us this evening. Your presence is your gift to us. you. **Visit us at:** www.emmanuelofrochester.org



**Worship—Eve of
Easter IV
May 2, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

With One Voice— Bread of Life Liturgy

** indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

*Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness Page 10f

***Gathering Hymn: “Give Me Jesus”** **WOV #777**

*Greeting Page 28

*Kyrie Page 28

*Hymn of Praise (**Men = I; Women = II**) Page 29f

*Salutation and Prayer of the Day Page 30

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Heavenly Father, your Son cares for your people as a shepherd cares for his sheep, calling us each by name. Grant that we may hear and recognize his voice, and, following him, be brought safely through every trial and temptation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23 **Bulletin Insert**

Second Lesson: I Peter 2:19-25

*Gospel Acclamation: “Alleluia” Page 31

*Holy Gospel: John 10:1-10

Children’s Message: “The Little Woolly Lamb”

Hymn: “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” **WOV #731**

Sermon: “An Ear Toward the Shepherd” Rev. Dave Steffenson

*Hymn: “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” LBW #456

1. The King of Love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid, And home rejoicing brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

5. And so through all the length of days, Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise, Within Thy house forever!

*Confession of Faith: “Apostles’ Creed” Page 33

*The Prayers (bulletin page 3)

*Lord’s Prayer: Traditional Version Page 39

*Benediction Page 41

*Sending Hymn: “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” LBW #481

1. Savior like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.

2. We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.

3. You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

4 Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

*Dismissal Page 41

Postlude

The Prayers

A: Let us pray to our Risen Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people according to their need.

A brief silence

A: Thank you, Jesus, for being our Good Shepherd – even though we balk at being compared to sheep! Thank you for giving us abundant life, even as we walk through death-shadowed valleys. Thank you for knowing us by name, even though we sometimes forget yours. Claim us & guide us every day, in spite of ourselves, until we are safely in your house forever. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: You are the Good Shepherd. Defend the Church from peril, provide for its needs, and lead it in paths of righteousness. Through its ministry, lead many to hear your voice and follow you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: .You are the Good Shepherd of this congregation. Lead us with your Word. Prepare our table with your Body and Blood. Teach us to do your will with glad and faithful hearts. And use us to lead many into your safe keeping. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: You are the Gate of your sheep. Protect the people of every nation from false shepherds; from rulers who care nothing for their welfare; and from all the threatening dangers of this world. Bring peace in places of violence; rich pasture in places of poverty; and true righteousness in places of injustice. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: You are the Good Shepherd who leads us through dark valleys shadowed by suffering. Be the strong Guide and sure comfort of all who call upon you, especially during these frightening days of COVID-19. Be with those we name before you [NAMES]. Fill them with your abundant life; keep them steadfast in faith; and strengthen and bless all who care for them. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We praise and magnify you, dear Jesus. Accept our prayers and lay them at the feet of your Father, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns gloriously as our Lord and our God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

2020 Mega Kid's Camp — July 20-23!

Things are moving forward with the planning of this summer's 8th annual Mega Kids Camp. The Coronavirus may force this summer camp to be cancelled. Only time will tell. Registration opened on April 1. The cost for this year is \$30 per child. No fee is being collected at registration. This year's theme is, **"The Heart of a Champion."** To register, go to www.evangelum.org and follow the Mega Kids Camp link. You may also print the registration material from the website and mail it to: Evangel United Methodist Church, 2645 North Broadway, Rochester, MN 55906.

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP: Faith Practices! Signposts guide our way—Disciples pray daily, worship weekly, grow spiritually, read & study Scripture on a regular basis, serve others, share the good news, and live & give generously.

Saturday School & G.I.F.T. — Postponed until further notice.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast: — Happening online via Email.

Women's Bible Study: New study on I Peter began on April 23. Email and phone. Contact Pastor Dave for a printed copy!

Prayers for Pastor Dave & Julie: Prayers are welcomed as Pastor Dave undergoes treatment for pancreatic cancer.

Acts 4:31—The Church Prayed!

"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the Word of God with boldness.

Each day at 4:31pm, Members and Friends of Emmanuel are connecting for prayer while staying put in their own homes. Send prayer requests to Pastor Dave Steffenson. Thanks for joining us.

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father."
Philippians 2:5-11. Alleluia!

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota
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The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, May 2, 2020
Eve of Easter IV—6pm

***"Praising, Proclaiming & Practicing
Emmanuel—God with us—in daily
life!"***



CALENDAR ITEMS

Blessed Easter to You and Yours!

The Season of Easter is 50 Days long. Each Sunday is a mini Easter. We praise the LORD for the resurrection victory that is ours in Christ Jesus. We light our Paschal Candle reminding us that Christ is the Light of the World. We are His Easter People. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

We will light the Paschal Candle during the days of Easter until we arrive at Ascension Day. We also light this candle whenever we have a baptism or a funeral, reminding us that in baptism we daily die and rise with Jesus. Not even death can extinguish the Light of Christ's love. This is the victory that overcomes the world: The Faithfulness of Jesus. Alleluia!

The May Emmanuel Prayer Calendar & Epistle Newsletter are both available in print! Also, pick up your copy of the current "Our Daily Bread" Devotional.

- May 1-10: Virtual Walk for Life (New Life Family Services)
- Sat, May 2—Virtual Worship, Easter IV (Good Shepherd Sunday)—6pm
- Sunday, May 3—Pastor Dave leading Drive-In Worship at Trinity (9am)
- Tuesday, May 5—Men's Bible Study via email (8:30-9:30am)
- Thursday, April 30 Women's Virtual Bible Study on I Peter 2:1-25 (1:00-2:30pm).
- Friday, May 8 at 6pm Church Council Mtg.
- Group Prayer each day at 4:31pm. Thanks for joining us in prayer!

Acts 2:42-47 — Faith Practices in the Early Church

42 [The believers] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23—responsively

L: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C: He makes me lie down in green pastures.

L: He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

C: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

L: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

C: For you are with me; your rod & your staff, they comfort me.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

L: Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C: And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

I Peter 2:19-25 — Suffering for Righteousness Sake

19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in

his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd & Overseer of your souls.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10th. Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

1 [Jesus said to the Jews,] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in & out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Thanks for worshiping with us this evening. Your presence is your gift to us. We pray that our Service of Worship is a blessing to you. Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are praising, proclaiming & practicing Emmanuel – God with us – in daily life! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org