

# Morning Prayer

April 30, 2023

Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09)

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Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

## The Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

### Prelude

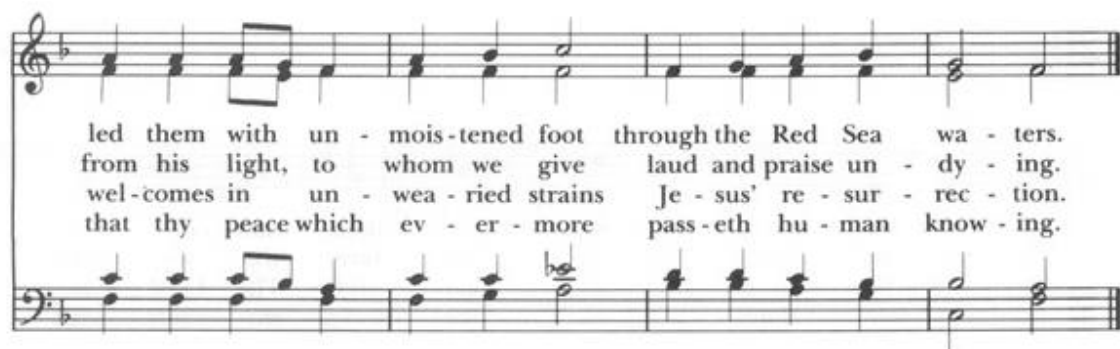
*All stand as they are able.*

### Opening Hymn

*Come ye faithful, raise the strain*

### Hymnal 199

1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst his pris - on,  
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,  
God hath brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness:  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;  
with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren - der;  
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold thee as a mor - tal:  
loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,  
all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
but to - day a - midst thine own thou didst stand, be - stow - ing



*Presider* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Presider says*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth God's praise, to hear God's holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship, let us keep silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

*All kneel, or remain standing, as they are able.*

*Silence is kept.*

*The Presider and the People*

Most merciful God,  
**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 neighbors 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.**

*The Presider says*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ is risen!

*People* **O come let us worship. Alleluia!**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

**O come let us worship. Alleluia!**

## Invitatory

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before God's presence with a song.

**Know this: The Lord himself is God, \***

**Who has made us; we are God's.**

**We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise; \*

give thanks to the Holy One, and call upon God's Name.

**For the Lord is good,**

**with mercy everlasting, \***

**and faithfulness enduring from age to age.**

## Psalms 23

<sup>1</sup>**The LORD is my shepherd; \***

**I shall not be in want.**

<sup>2</sup>**He makes me lie down in green pastures \***

**and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>**He revives my soul \***

**and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>**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.**

<sup>6</sup>**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.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen!  
**O come let us worship. Alleluia!**

*The people are seated.*

## **Announcements**

## **The Lessons**

### **First Reading**

Acts 2:42-47

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>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, <sup>47</sup>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.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

*The people remain seated.*

### **Canticle 18: A Song to the Lamb**

*Dignus es      Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13*

Splendor and honor and royal power \*  
are yours by right, O God Most High,  
**For you created everything that is, \***  
**and by your will they were created and have their being;**  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
**From every family, language, people, and nation, \***  
**a royal priesthood to serve our God.**  
And so, to the One who sits upon the throne, \*  
and to Christ the Lamb,  
**Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \***  
**for ever and for evermore.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

## Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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.

<sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

*All stand as they are able.*

## Hymn

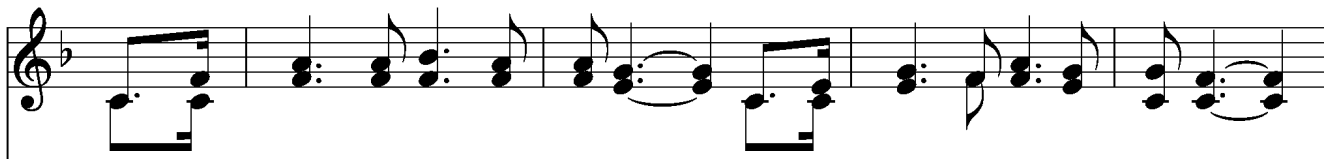
LEVAS 144

*Where he leads me*

1. I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, — I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, —  
2. I'll go with Him through the gar - den, — I'll go with Him through the gar - den, —  
3. I'll go with Him through the judge - ment, — I'll go with Him through the judge - ment, —  
4. He will give me grace and glo - ry, — He will give me grace and glo - ry, —



1. I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing,—"Take thy cross and fol - low, fol-low me."
2. I'll go with Him through the gar - den,— I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.
3. I'll go with Him through the judge - ment,— I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.
4. He will give me grace and glo - ry,— And go with me, with me all the way.



Where He leads me I will fol-low,—Where He leads me I will fol - low,—



Where He leads me I will fol-low,— I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.



## Third Reading

John 10:1-10

A Reading from John.

[Jesus said,] <sup>1</sup>"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. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.



<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

*All stand as they are able.*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*The Presider begins*

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**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Let us pray.

*The Presider and the People*

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**R. And grant us your salvation.**  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**R. Let your people sing with joy.**  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
**R. Your saving health among all nations.**  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

### *The Collect of the Day*

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray for peace where there is discord, compassion when there is division, and joy where there is sorrow. May we always love Our Shepherd with all our hearts and minds. Help us to minister to all those we encounter. Keep us ever mindful of the needs of others. In the glorious resurrection, let us celebrate and share the good news of salvation. **Amen**

### **Intercessions and Thanksgivings**

*Presider* Savior, we need your tender care. Like a shepherd, lead us, and we will follow. Call us each by name.



*Intercessor* Lead your church into the way of love. Teach us to hear and follow your voice and your vision for the world. We pray for all the people of St Barnabas in their many ministries, and on those on the St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer. Tender Shepherd, **call us each by name and lead us home.**

*Silence is kept.*

Guide those around the world who make decisions that impact the lives of individuals and nations. Tender Shepherd, **precede us all in the ways of justice and peace.**

*Silence is kept.*

We give you our deepest thanks and praise for the love and blessings you give us. We are grateful for [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all of these.

*Silence is kept.*

Lighten the burden of those suffering loss, illness, and anxiety, those whom we know and love [especially \_\_\_\_\_], and those who are unknown to us. Tender Shepherd, **comfort them and shower them with your healing grace.**

We pray for those who have died. Carry [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all those who have finished their earthly journey into the next life, and gently place them in God's eternal embrace. Tender Shepherd, **call us each by name and lead us home.**

*Silence is kept.*

*Presider* For what other persons or situations shall we pray today?

O God, we believe in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Lead us as a shepherd, going ahead of us in all our ways; that we may be less devoted to our order and more to your justice; to shun the negative peace which is the absence of tension, and to embrace a positive peace which is the presence of justice. Teach us to love one another, just as he has commanded us. In the strong name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

*The Presider then says*

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Let us present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

*The People stand as they are able when the offerings are presented at the Altar.*

## **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

*The Presider and the People*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: **Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

LEVAS 109

*What a friend we have in Jesus*

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?

1. What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 2. We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 3. Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

1. Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh, what need - less pain we bear,  
 2. Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
 3. Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

1. All be-cause we do not car-ry Ev-'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
 2. Je-sus knows our ev-'ry weak-ness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 3. In his arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol-ace there.

# Dismissal

*The Presider says*

As you leave this place, take courage and strength for the week ahead  
 as you love and serve the Lord, our Redeemer.  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Grace of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
 be with us all evermore. **Amen**

*Presider* Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:  
 Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**  
*Ephesians 3:20, 21*

# Postlude

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## This week in prayer

**Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:**

**Our Bishops** Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA)  
**and for** all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation  
**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**  
 April 30 The Episcopal Church  
**Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:**  
 April 30 Christ Church, Adrian; Nativity Church, Sal Salcedo, St Stephen's, San Pedro,  
 Dominican Republic  
**St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer:** Mike, Josie, Henry, Leslie  
**and our continuing prayers for:** Bob, Carlos, Robert, Selenah

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### Upcoming Commemorations

- April 30 Sarah Josepha Buell Hale, Editor and Prophetic Witness, 1879  
May 1 Philip and James, Apostles  
2 Athanasius of Alexandria, Bishop and Theologian, 373  
3 Elizabeth Cruciger, Poet and Hymnographer, 1535  
4 Monica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387  
5 Martyrs of the Reformation Era

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**Faith in Action** provides leadership in collecting donations of food to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. *Federal SNAP benefits given to needy families have ended, and food pantries are stressed to their maximum.*

***The most recent most-needed items*** are: baked beans, coffee, hamburger (or other) helper, spaghetti sauce, cereal, 64-oz fruit juices, crackers, and laundry soap. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let [Nancy](#) know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*, with “St Barnabas” on the memo line. The Food and CHS Student Gift Cards In-Gathering is **May 21, 2023**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

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## BIBLE STUDIES THAT WORK

**April 30, 2023 Easter 4A**

**Acts 2:42-47**

Matthias has just been named the twelfth apostle, and Christ has called the twelve into mission. The Holy Spirit has set upon them and they begin their post-resurrection ministry. As the apostles gain believers, small intentional communities begin to form, and the atmosphere seems idyllic—as though the kingdom of heaven has materialized on earth. Believers began to live together in beloved community: eating together, worshipping together, and sharing resources. Each day their numbers increased. It sounds phenomenal. And it was. But it's important to consider context here. Christ has not been gone for very long, and the believers are actively awaiting his return. They believe it is imminent, within their lifetime. And so, even their hardships seem short-lived and bearable, because they know that relief is near—eternal rest in Christ's kingdom.

Christ *will* come again. But when? How much more bearable hardships would be if we could predict their ending! And life was hard in ancient Israel; only a few months passed before the first martyrdom set in motion a wave of brutal persecution at the hands of the Roman Empire. This passage from Acts can teach us both *hope* and the power of faith. We know beloved community is possible. We know that it works. And we have faith that we *will* find it again.

- How do you recognize elements of Beloved Community in your life?
- Imagine for a moment that Christ will return in your lifetime. How would that transform your day-to-day living?

### **Psalms 23**

In times of trial, we humans tend to lean into comfort-seeking behaviors: a close friend in whom to confide, a warm fluffy blanket to wrap around ourselves, a favorite show to take our mind off of things, even if only temporarily, a comforting cup of tea. But a comforting psalm? Yes. Psalms are relatable. They poetically iterate the emotions bound up in our raw humanity. Psalms express our fear of enemies, our lament over hardships, our joy in triumph, and our determination and faith during times of trial. Psalm 23 expresses the idyllic state of God's love for us, while at the same time acknowledging the ever-present dangers in our earthly human lives. We are comforted by God's unwavering love for us. As we tread through the deserts and valleys of life, God provides wisdom and sustenance. God blesses us and gives us hope. This psalm comforts us in times of trial by acknowledging that, though we stray like lost sheep, God is always present, speaking to us – we only need to listen.

- How does Psalm 23 speak to you?
- Are there times when you still fear evil, even though you know that God is with you?

### **1 Peter 2:19-25**

The significance of this passage is its pastoral approach to a timeless hardship. This letter is written by a disciple of Peter to newly converted Christians who are struggling through the difficulties of being exiled from their communities. Where they once had privilege, they now find exclusion and abuse. They have, in a sense, entered an unfamiliar wilderness, a liminal space within the margins of society. From one side, they stand abhorred and scourged, unwanted by popular society. From the other side, they are sheep of a fold being guided under the care of the

Great Shepherd, beloved and cared for, but susceptible to wolves and all sorts of dangers because of their faith.

This letter offers buoyancy and hope, not in the here and now, but in their future within God’s heavenly dwelling. It reminds them (and us) of Christ’s ultimate sacrifice for us, an innocent Lamb who committed *no* sin, yet gave his life for the forgiveness of *our* sins. Our sacrifice is in our steady trust and praise to God, regardless of our circumstance. Psalm 23 expresses this well: “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me.” God is with us, and that is what Peter is assuring the oppressed. Have faith in the shepherd and guardian of your souls (1 Peter 2:25).

- When have you felt exiled?
- The communities to whom Peter is writing are being abused because of their faith, and Peter is encouraging them to persevere. Do you find this letter encouraging? What would encourage *you* to persevere amid the abuse?

**John 10:1-10**

“I am the gate,” Jesus said. He tells us that anyone who enters the sheepfold – which has only one entryway – by any means other than through the gate is a bandit. Sheepfolds are designed for protection. Sheep may safely rest within their walls, finding sanctuary behind the gate, which is guarded by the gatekeeper: God. This metaphor would have been very relatable to the earliest Christians as shepherding was an integral part of their culture. Protecting the sheep meant that there was food to eat and fiber for clothing. It meant survival.

The gate offers life, and likewise, Christ offers life. Through Christ, “the guardian [or gate] of our souls,” we find the promise of sanctuary and everlasting life. In this earthly life, we are faced with innumerable things vying for our attention, distracting us, and leading us astray. All the while, Christ-the-Gate stands open, welcoming us into his sheepfold. There is no shortcut; only through Christ-the-Gate may we enter God’s kingdom, and it won’t be easy getting there. But there is hope: “Though [we] walk through the valley of the shadow of death,” we are not alone. Following the still, small voice of our Creator and Redeemer, we will make our way to the Gate of Salvation and we *will* find sanctuary.

- What earthly distractions lead you astray, away from Christ-the-Gate?
- How do you hear the voice of our Creator calling you to Christ-the-Gate?
- Where do you see threads of connectivity between this day’s scripture readings?

*This study written by the Rev. Angela Furlong.*

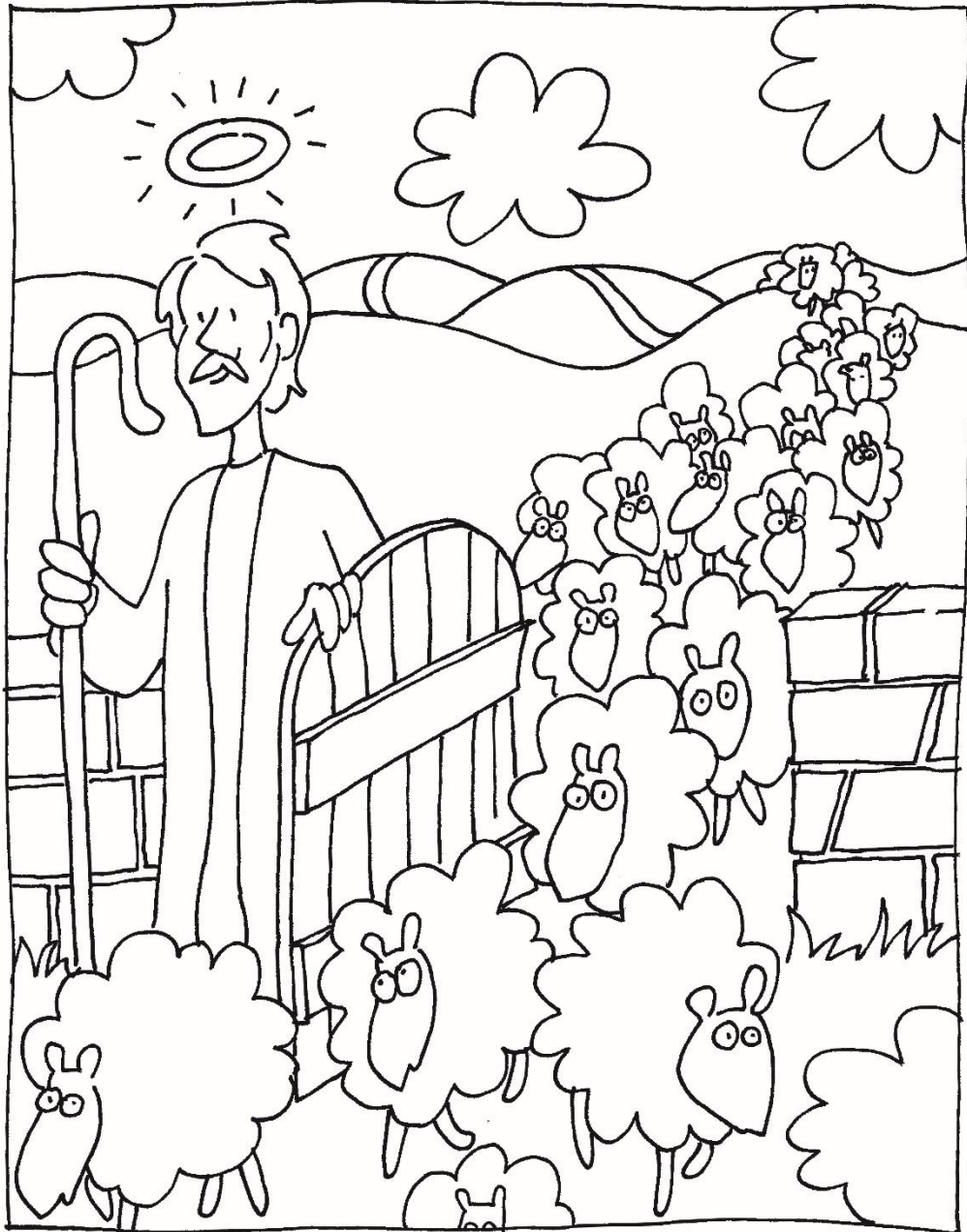
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**Our Mission:**

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



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