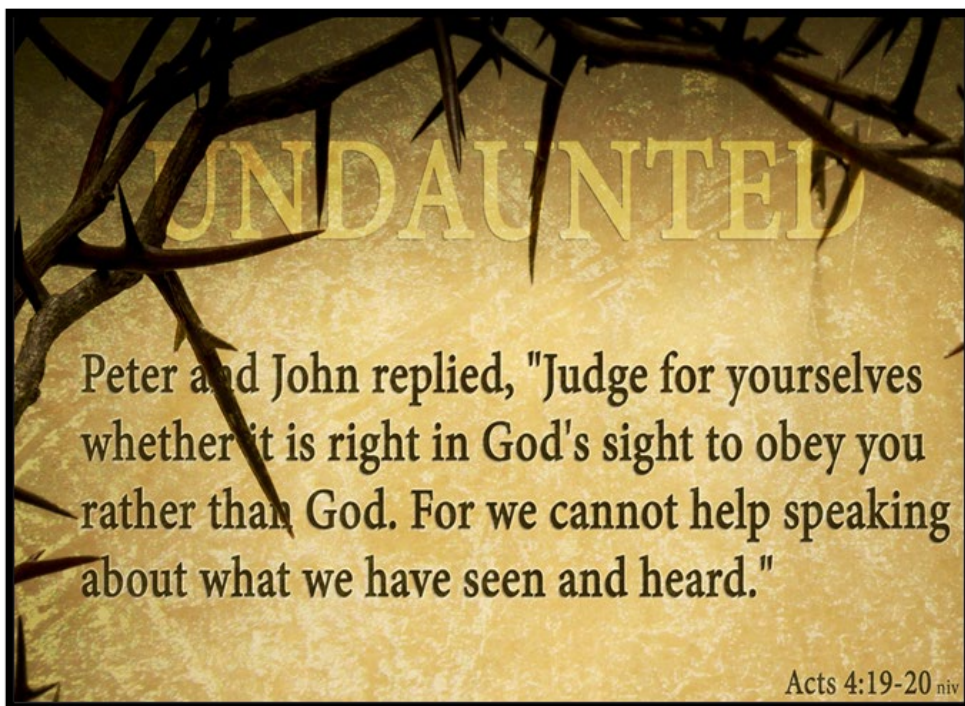


Fourth Sunday Of Easter

April 22 & 25, 2021



Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church

(Wisconsin Synod)

1332 Arrowhead Rd.

Grafton, Wisconsin 53024

Church: 262-377-6363 School: 262-377-7780

www.OurSaviorGrafton.org

VERSE OF THE DAY: “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.”
(Jesus speaking in John 10:27-28)

WORSHIP NOTES - *WELCOME TO WORSHIP!* The readings with this Sunday begin a gradual transition from emphasis on Our Lord to emphasis on the Church, from the way that God won our salvation to the way we live our salvation. From now until Pentecost they focus on the nature of our relationship with the Risen Christ through his Word: the relationships of Shepherd and sheep, of Vine and branches, of Friend with friends, of Patron and protected.

PRAYER OF THE DAY Lord Jesus, you defeated our enemies – sin, death and Satan – for us with your sacrificial death and with your resurrection in power. Assure us that you continue to shepherd us through life as our Defender and Provider, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GUESTS Welcome to our visitors!

Restrooms: At the far (south) side of the entry area.

Parents’ Room: Also at the far (south) side of the entry area.

Hearing Help: Enhanced hearing units are available. Contact an usher.



OPENING HYMN “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” (p. 6) CW #141

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP,
TO UNBURDEN OUR HEARTS AND TO REJOICE IN GOD’S FORGIVENESS.

P: We worship in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.” (Psalm 95:6)

C: “He is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.” (Psalm 95:7)

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. In what I have done and left undone, I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. I have fallen far short of your holy standard. When I think of this past week, I am truly sorry for . . .** (in silence we confess the sins that lie heavy on our hearts)

P: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

C: **Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Strengthen me by the Holy Spirit to walk the path you have laid out for me.**

P: Christ has died for us. Christ rose from death to assure our salvation. Christ has ascended to intercede with us at his Father's side. For his sake, our God has forgiven all our sins and now empowers us to live for him. Rejoice and live in his grace.

C: We thank you, Lord Jesus. We praise you, our Triune God. Amen!

P: The love and forgiveness of our God lead us to love and forgive one another.

C: May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions. Amen!

RESPONSE HYMN

"Christ Is Arisen"

CW #144

Christ is arisen From the grave's dark prison.
We now rejoice with gladness; Christ will end all sadness.
Lord, have mercy.
All our hopes were ended had Jesus not ascended
From the grave triumphantly.
For this, Lord Christ, our thanks shall be.
Lord, have mercy.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
We now rejoice with gladness; Christ will end all sadness.
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER

All: Lord of life and Shepherd of our souls, we seek your comfort for our grief, your presence amid our fears, and your strength to face our trials. Focus our hearts on your promises; fix our hope on your return; confirm our resolve to make our lives a testimony to your grace. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WE OPEN OUR EARS AND HEARTS TO GOD'S WORD.

THE FIRST LESSON Acts 4:23-33

In the face of threats the apostles found strength in the psalms, sought courage in prayer, and testified to Jesus' resurrection in unity with all who believed in the Savior.

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform

miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

THE PSALM (sung in unison) **Psalm 23** (p.10)

CW, page 72

THE SECOND LESSON **1 Peter 5:1-4**

The shepherds are to emulate The Shepherd. The flock should value highly the love of God for the flock that he sends them such shepherds. If the reward for faithful shepherds is so great, then the love of The Shepherd for his under shepherds must also be very great. The shepherds should be encouraged by the promise and the flock should be both warned and comforted by that same promise.

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers-- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

A RESPONSE OF FAITH “In You Is Gladness” (p.7)

CW #346

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS **John 10:11-18**

Jesus identifies himself as the Good Shepherd, who defends his people, lays down his life for them, and rises from death to gather a global flock of believers.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

THE HYMN OF THE DAY “In Christ Alone” (p.11)

CWS # 752

THE MESSAGE Acts 4:23-33 “Sheep can Stand Up to Roaring Lions”

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH AND OFFER OUR GIFTS.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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

OFFERING

Online or in the entry to the gym. Guests please do not feel any obligation to participate in the offering (though you are always welcome to do so). Find and fill out a Guest Card as you leave, and drop it in with the offerings so we can connect with you – thanks!

A HYMN OF COMMITMENT “Take My Life” (p.9) CW #469, vs. 1 & 4

WE PRAY OUR CONCERNS TO OUR GOOD SHEPHERD AND RECEIVE HIS BLESSING.

P: Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, you laid down your life for us and took it up again to be our Defender. You have ascended to rule our world in our best interest.

C: Keep our feet from straying, our minds from doubting, and our hearts from fear.

P: You, Lord, know the opposition your people face in this world that denies your truth. You understand the weakness of our sinful human nature and the temptations we face each day.

C: Confirm our faith, defend us from evil, and strengthen our resolve to live to your glory.

P: Almighty God, you have prepared us for the violence, the immorality, and the corruption in our world. You accomplish your will through leaders in the church, in the home, and in the political realm.

C: Lead those we elect to govern with integrity. Lead those who parent to model your love. Lead your church to faithfulness and compassion.

P: Jesus, Savior, you demonstrated compassion for the hurting, concern for the misdirected, and a passion for the lost during your ministry on earth. You see our struggles, and you know our needs.

C: Stand beside those who mourn and those who face illness. Restore our loved ones who have wandered from the faith. Through your church gather the lost with the power of the Gospel.

P: We pray especially for our family of faith here at Our Savior, including. . .

P: Hear us now as we bring before you the people, the issues, and the needs that lie on our hearts, in silent prayer. . .

C: 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.

P: "May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will."

C: "And may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

P: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

C: Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN

"Beautiful Savior"

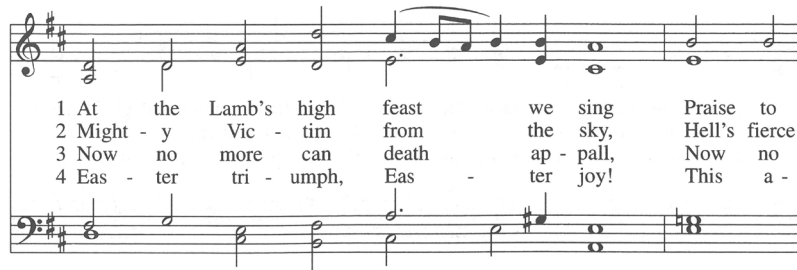
(p. 13)

CW #369

SILENT PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

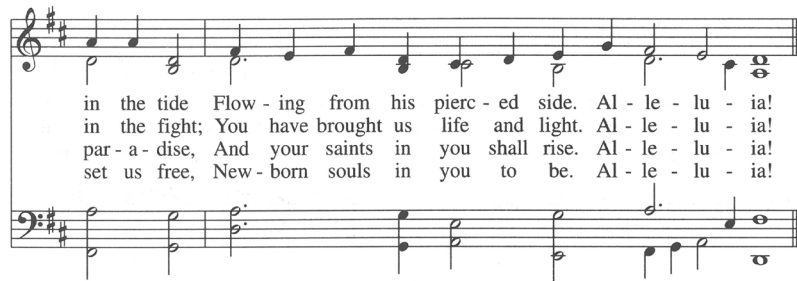
141



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 2 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky, Hell's fierce
 3 Now no more can death ap - pall, Now no
 4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy! This a -



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us
 pow'rs be - neath you lie. You have con - quered
 more the grave en - thrall; You have o - pened
 lone can sin de - stroy; From sin's pow'r, Lord,



in the tide Flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 in the fight; You have brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!
 par - a - dise, And your saints in you shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 set us free, New - born souls in you to be. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days,
 Three in One, your name we praise.
 Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th century, abr.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-68, alt.
 Tune: *Kirchengeseng*, Ivančice, 1566

SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT
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346

In You Is Gladness

1 In you is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus, Sun - shine
2 If he is ours, We fear no pow - ers, Not of earth or

of my heart. By you are giv - en The gifts of heav - en; You the
sin or death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis - tress - es; He can

true Re - deem - er are. Our souls are wak - ing; Our bonds are
change them with a breath. Where - fore the sto - ry Tell of his

break - ing. Who trusts you sure - ly Has built se - cure - ly
glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re - joic - es

And stands for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
In him for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for

pin - ing To see your shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Win o - ver sad - ness, Love him and praise him

To you are cling - ing Now and for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!
And still shall raise him Glad hymns for - ev - er. Al - le - lu - ia!

Take My Life and Let It Be

469

1 Take my life and let it be Con - se -
 2 Take my hands and let them move At the
 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways,
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; Not a

cra - ted, Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments
 im - pulse of thy love. Take my feet and
 on - ly for my King. Take my lips and
 mite would I with - hold. Take my in - tel -

and my days; Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 It shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart — it is thine own;
 It shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
 At thy feet its treasure store.
 Take myself, and I will be
 Ever, only, all for thee.

Psalm 23

Refrain



The Lord is my shep - herd; there is noth - ing I shall want.

Psalm tone



The LORD is my shepherd,*
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;*
he leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul;*
he guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

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.

Refrain

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

Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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

Refrain

752

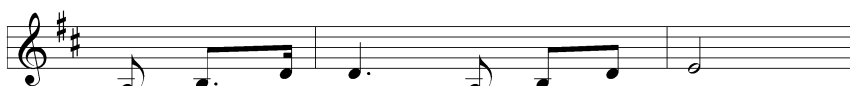
In Christ Alone



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found.
 2 In Christ a - lone— who took on flesh,
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay,
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,



He is my light, my strength, my song;
 Full - ness of God in help - less babe.
 Light of the world by dark - ness slain;
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me;



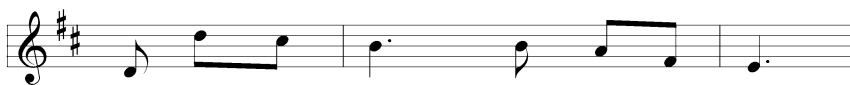
This cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground,
 This gift of love and right - eous - ness,
 Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day
 From life's first cry to fi - nal breath,



Firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
 Scorned by the ones he came to save.
 Up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 Je - sus com - mands my des - tin - y.



What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 Till on that cross, as Je - sus died,
 And as he stands in vic - tor - y,
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man



When fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease!
 The wrath of God was sat - is - fied;
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
 Can ev - er pluck me from his hand;

My Com - for - ter, my all in all,
 For ev - 'ry sin on him was laid.
 For I am his and he is mine—
 Till he re - turns or calls me home,

(Fine)

Here in the love of Christ I stand.
 Here in the death of Christ I live.
 Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

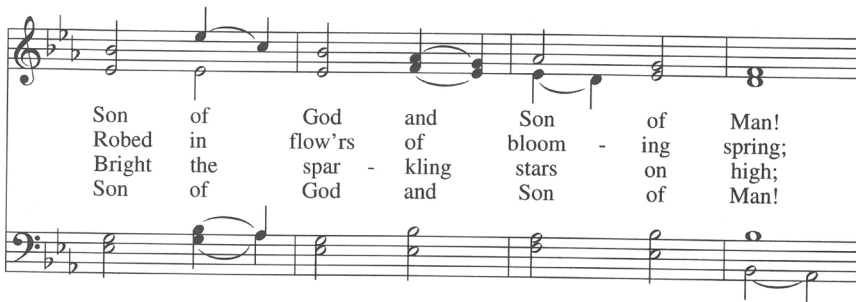
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Beautiful Savior

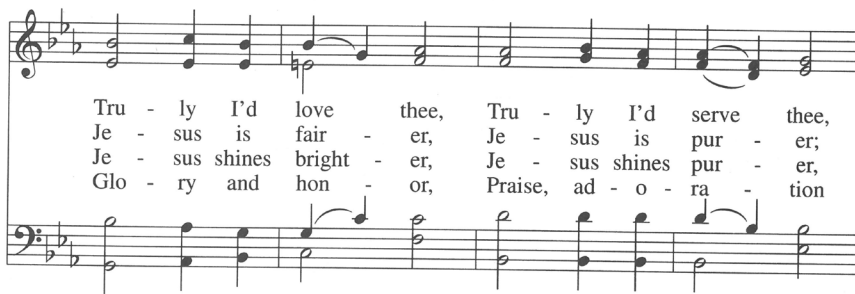
369



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 Robed in flow'rs and bloom - ing spring;
 Bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, Tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er;
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er;
 Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o - ra - tion



Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.
 He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
 Than all the an - gels in the sky.
 Now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Münsterisch Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677, abr.; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904
 Tune: Silesian folk tune, 19th century, alt.

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU
 557 558

Intro: The early Christians were mightily courageous in the face of opposition and then persecution. They stood ground with a quiet dignity that is awesome because it points to the protection of the Good Shepherd.

Sheep can Stand Up to Roaring Lions

1. They Prayed Boldly. (vs. 23-28)

- 1.1 They heard the lions roar but were no longer afraid.
- 1.2 Bold praying approaches God for who he is, not on human terms.
- 1.3 Bold praying takes us out of our comfort zone.

App: This Spirit-generated boldness highlights faith – we have no strength or ability to handle this on our own, but the attacks cause us to rely on God’s protection. He promises that he would not leave us.

2. They Spoke Confidently. (v. 29-31)

- 2.1 Instead of retreating, they sought their answer in God’s Word.
- 2.2 Their courage would not let them adjust the message to avoid danger.
- 2.3 Biblical boldness for Christ is a fountain that bursts from a satisfied soul.

App: Here is the compelling nature of what the Spirit put on display – they GLADLY stood their ground and took the brunt of the enemy’s anger. Just like Jesus...

3. They Loved Broadly. (v. 32-33)

- 3.1 The heart and soul of following Jesus is to love with his unconditional love.
- 3.2 Bold love is willing to take action for the good of others.

App: God’s grace was on them all, strengthening and encouraging them to testify.

Conclusion: There is nothing so life-changing as Jesus’ resurrection! We can hold so firmly to this historic event that it changes us from sheepish sheep to confident confessors who pray, speak and love without hesitation.

THIS WEEK AT OUR SAVIOR

Sunday (4/25)	8:00 AM	Worship Service
	9:15 AM	Retirement Celebration for Mrs. Dierker
	10:30 AM	Worship Service
	12:00 PM	Everyone Outreach
Wednesday	8:20 AM	Children's Church
	4:00 PM	Public School Conformation Class
	6:00 PM	Bible Information Class
Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship Service
Saturday	7:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
Sunday (5/2)	8:00 AM	Worship Service with Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult and Teen Bible Study
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship Service with Communion

NEXT WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

1st Lesson	Acts 16:11-15
2nd Lesson	1 John 3:18-24
Gospel	John 15:1-8
Psalm	67

*LiveStream on Youtube Channel at 10:30am every Sunday
This service is also recorded for review after livestream.
Link on our website (see below).*

OUR SAVIOR EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

(Wisconsin Synod)

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THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICE

**"OUR GOOD SHEPHERD
WILL PROTECT US"**
SERVICE THEME

PREACHER Mark Wagner

ORGANIST Amy Grulke &
Ann Peterman

HYMNS 141, 144, 346,
469, 752, 369

FIRST LESSON
Acts 4:23-33

SECOND LESSON
1 John 3:1-2

GOSPEL LESSON
John 10:11-18

SERMON
Acts 4:23-33

**"Sheep can Stand Up to
Roaring Lions"**