

## April 25, 2021 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome

P: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### You Never Let Go

Even though I walk  
Through the valley of the shadow of death  
Your perfect love is casting out fear  
And even when I'm caught  
In the middle of the storms of this life  
I won't turn back I know You are near

Oh no You never let go  
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Oh no You never let go  
Lord You never let go of me  
You keep on runnin' and You never let go

And I will fear no evil  
For my God is with me  
And if my God is with me  
Whom then shall I fear  
Whom then shall I fear

Singin', Oh no You never let go  
Through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no You never let go  
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Oh no You never let go  
Lord You never let go of me

Oh no You never let go  
Through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no You never let go  
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Oh no You never let go  
Lord You never let go of me

And I can see a light that is coming  
For the heart that holds on  
A glorious light beyond all compare  
And there will be an end to these troubles  
But until that day comes  
We'll live to know You here on the earth

Yes I can see a light  
That is coming for the heart that holds on  
And there will be an end to these troubles  
But until that day comes  
Still I will praise You  
Still I will praise You

And I will fear no evil  
For my God is with me  
And if my God is with me  
Whom then shall I fear  
Whom then shall I fear

Yes I can see a light  
That is coming for the heart that holds on  
And there will be an end to these troubles  
But until that day comes  
Still I will praise You  
Still I will praise You

Oh no You never let go  
Through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no You never let go  
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Oh no You never let go  
Lord You never let go of me

Oh no You never let go  
Through the calm and through the storm

Oh no You never let go  
Through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no You never let go  
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low  
Oh no You never let go  
Lord You never let go of me

Lord You never let go of me

*by Beth Redman / Matt Redman*  
© 2005 Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian  
Music Publishing)  
CCLI License # 587498

### **He Knows My Name**

I have a maker, He formed my heart.  
Before even time began,  
my life was in His hand.

He knows my name,  
He knows my ev'ry thought,  
He sees each tear that falls  
and hears me when I call.

I have a Father, He calls me His own.  
He'll never leave me,  
no matter where I go.  
He knows my name,  
He knows my ev'ry thought,  
He sees each tear that falls  
and hears me when I call.

I have a Savior, He rose from the dead,  
And as He welcomes me  
I rise to live for him.

He knows my name,  
He knows my ev'ry thought,  
He sees each tear that falls  
and hears me when I call.

I have His Spirit living within,  
To guide and comfort me,  
and set my spirit free.  
He knows my name,  
He knows my ev'ry thought,  
He sees each tear that falls  
and hears me when I call.

He knows my name,  
He knows my ev'ry thought,  
He sees each tear that falls  
and hears me when I call.  
He hears me when I call.

*By Tommy Walker*  
©1996 Doulos Publishing  
Vss. 3,4 Rev J Patrick Fitzgerald  
CCLI License No. 587498

### **Prayer**

### **Gathering Song: LBW 551 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
Praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ, our brother,

All who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine!

*Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven; Text: Henry van Dyke*  
©1977 Augsburg Fortress Publishing  
Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-711958

#### Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God + Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Faithful and just God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen**

P: In this is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others; in the name of the + Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### Apostolic Greeting:

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

**C: And also with you.**

#### Kyrie (sung): LBW setting 2, page 78

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

Hymn of Praise: This Is the Feast , LBW Setting 2, pg. 81

A: This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia.

**C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O Lord Christ,

**C: ...Good Shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Lessons

**Acts 4:5-12 (GOD'S WORD Translation)**

5 The next day the Jewish rulers, leaders, and scribes met in Jerusalem. 6 The chief priest Annas, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and the rest of the chief priest's family were present. 7 They made Peter and John stand in front of them and then asked, "By what power or in whose name did you do this?"

8 Then Peter, because he was filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and leaders of the people, 9 today you are cross-examining us about the good we did for a crippled man. You want to know how he was made well. 10 You and all the people of Israel must understand that this man stands in your presence with a healthy body because of the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth. You crucified Jesus Christ, but God has brought him back to life. 11 He is the stone that the builders rejected, the stone that has become the cornerstone. 12 No one else can save us. Indeed, we can be saved only by the power of the one named Jesus and not by any other person."

**1 John 3:16-24 (The Message)**

16–17 This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow

believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear. 18–20 My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves.

21–24 And friends, once that's taken care of and we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God! We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what he said, doing what pleases him. Again, this is God's command: to believe in his personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each other, in line with the original command. As we keep his commands, we live deeply and surely in him, and he lives in us. And this is how we experience his deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit he gave us.

Gospel Acclamation: LBW setting 2, page 83

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

P: The Gospel according to... **John 10:11-18 (NRSV)**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

*After the reading*

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message: “Like the Good Shepherd”

Message Hymn: **LBW 456 The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
And he is mine forever.

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

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

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.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
And, oh, what transport of delight  
From thy pure chalice floweth!

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

*Tune: Irish; Text: Henry W. Baker*

©Public Domain

Apostles' Creed

**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 into hell. 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**

Praise Song: **Lord of the Dance**

I danced in the morning  
when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon  
and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven  
and I danced on the earth,  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, herever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
but they would not dance  
and they wouldn't follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen,  
for James and John -  
they came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the  
lame;  
the holy people said it was a shame.  
they whipped and they stripped  
and they hung me on high,  
and they left me there on a Cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday  
when the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance with  
the devil on your back.  
They buried my body  
and they thought I'd gone,  
but I am the Dance, and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that will never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

*Sydney Bertram Carter*

© Words: Stainer & Bell Ltd (Admin. by Hope Pub.  
Company) Music: Stainer & Bell Ltd (Admin. by Hope  
Pub. Company)

CCLI License # 587498

#### Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

#### Offertory – Let the Vineyards LBW Setting 2, page 86

**C: Let the vineyards be fruitful Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with  
the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the  
prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a  
foretaste of the feast to come.**

#### Prayers of the Church

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according  
to their needs.

A: ...Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Prayers are concluded with*

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your  
mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

## Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen**

## Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace.

**C: Amen**

## Closing Song: **LBW 143 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

Now all the vault of heaven resounds  
In praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has  
triumphed!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings,  
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still he comes to give us life  
And by his presence stills all strife.  
Christ has triumphed! He is living!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
Set heart and will on things above  
That we conquer through your triumph;  
Grant grace sufficient for life's day  
That by our lives we truly say:  
Christ has triumphed! He is living!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring  
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father, and our Lord,  
To Spirit blest, most holy God,  
All the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesange; Text: Paul Z.  
Strodach*

© Public Domain

## Sending

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia**

A: Go in peace.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

A: Share the Good News.

**C: Yes, Lord, we will!**