

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor  
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2650 Farnam Street  
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[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

May 3, 2020

9:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER



*Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*Mark Jones, Organist*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we will confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**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.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1 Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!<br/>Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!<br/>offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!<br/>at the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!</b></p> <p><b>2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!<br/>sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!<br/>Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!<br/>now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!</b></p> | <p><b>3 Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!<br/>God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!<br/>when contending death and life, Alleluia!<br/>met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!</b></p> <p><b>4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!<br/>all your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!<br/>Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!<br/>now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!</b></p> |
|---|--|

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807-1882, alt.

## EASTER GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Gracious God our shepherd,
- C** **you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we will walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Acts 2:42-47**

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

**T**he baptized 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.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 23** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your 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 prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**SECOND READING**

**1 Peter 2:19-25**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

(stand)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 10:1-10**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

**J**esus 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.*”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

## CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

## SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

*(stand)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*

ELW 502

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> The King of love my shepherd is,<br>whose goodness faileth never;<br>I nothing lack if I am his<br>and he is mine forever.                   | <b>4</b> In death's dark vale I fear no ill,<br>with thee, dear Lord, beside me,<br>thy rod and staff my comfort still;<br>thy cross before to guide me. |
| <b>2</b> Where streams of living water flow,<br>my ransomed soul he leadeth<br>and, where the verdant pastures grow,<br>with food celestial feedeth.  | <b>5</b> Thou spreadst a table in my sight;<br>thine unction grace bestoweth;<br>and, oh, what transport of delight<br>from thy pure chalice floweth!    |
| <b>3</b> Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,<br>but yet in love he sought me,<br>and on his shoulder gently laid,<br>and home, rejoicing, brought me. | <b>6</b> And so, through all the length of days,<br>thy goodness faileth never.<br>Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise<br>within thy house forever.     |

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

## THE NICENE CREED

- ¶ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- ☩ **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(stand)

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Response:**    **P** Lord, in your mercy,  
                  **C** hear our prayer.

*(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)*

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Roberta “Bobbi” Morse Barr, daughter of Ralph Morse; to the family and friends of Pamela Carlson, daughter of Leonard “Jerry” and Nancy Carlson

**Illness:** Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig, Richard Bock, Carol Coffey, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Sherry Henneman, mother of Scott Henneman, Dolores Hiatt, Beth & Richard Holzer, sister & father of James Holzer, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Lara & Olivia McCormick, Joan Nelson, Gary Rodene, Rosemarie Schmidt, Sheri Tipton, Joyce Wachal, Ed & Darlene White, Joanne Worm

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military*—Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in mission*—Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin; the Wittenberg Center and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

**Other Prayers:** *Seminarrians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Justin Perkins

## WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.

*As we share the peace today – and you do so in your home – You are invited you to contact a fellow member by phone, email or letter. You can do that today or any time during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. We could email each other or call each other during this time when we cannot meet. Then each week select another person to contact. Try to make it someone you don’t really know and get acquainted with them. Always be sure to leave your address, email, and phone number on your message in case they do not have a directory. Talk to people you know and get the names and addresses of those who might not have directories and try to contact them. By the time we meet again we will have made many new friends.*

# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“He Leadeth Me”*

W. Bradbury/arr. E. Childs  
Charlie Campbell, Trumpet

## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*

ELW 184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.



## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Merciful God,

**G** our ordinary gifts seem so small in light of your Easter gift, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**G** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**G** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

**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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Come to the Easter banquet.

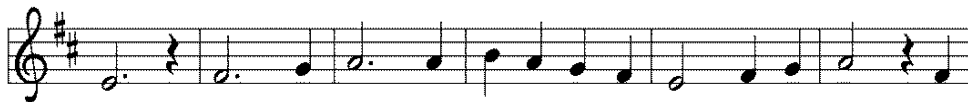
**C** We receive the risen Christ!

(sit)

## AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Dearest Lord Jesus,
- C** we believe that you are present in the Lord's Supper. We love you above all things, and we earnestly desire to receive you. Since we cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace you as if you are already there and we unite ourselves wholly to you. Never permit us to be separated from you. Amen.

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# SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☐ May the God who raised Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

ELW 789

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;<br/>much we need your tender care.<br/>In your pleasant pastures feed us,<br/>for our use your fold prepare.<br/>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br/>you have bought us; we are yours.<br/>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br/>you have bought us; we are yours.</b></p> <p><b>2 We are yours; in love befriend us,<br/>be the guardian of our way;<br/>keep your flock, from sin defend us,<br/>seek us when we go astray.<br/>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br/>hear us children when we pray.<br/>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br/>hear us children when we pray.</b></p> | <p><b>3 You have promised to receive us,<br/>poor and sinful though we be;<br/>you have mercy to relieve us,<br/>grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.<br/>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br/>early let us turn to you.<br/>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br/>early let us turn to you.</b></p> <p><b>4 Early let us seek your favor,<br/>early let us do your will;<br/>blessed Lord and only Savior,<br/>with your love our spirits fill.<br/>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br/>you have loved us, love us still.<br/>Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,<br/>you have loved us, love us still.</b></p> |
|--|---|

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

## DISMISSAL

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
☑ **Christ is risen indeed Alleluia!**
- ☐ Go in peace. Share the Easter news.  
☑ **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

*Mark Jones, Organist*

† † †

## Special Notice

In compliance with government regulations restricting large gatherings we have canceled all worship services (Saturday, Sunday and Wednesdays), Sunday School, all meals, and other church activities at least through the end of May. In the meantime, join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

May 3, 2020

*Alleluia!*

## Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers

**Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 9:00 - 11:00 AM;  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Fridays, 5:00 - 8:00 PM**—note additional day & time (Friday Pantry hours are 6:00 - 8:00 PM).

The Kountze Food Pantry is operating as usual during the COVID-19 closings. We have modified our service to protect the volunteers and guests. It is important to limit the number of volunteers we have in the building at one time, so it is important you sign up at the link below, for a specific time if you plan on volunteering. We are in need of volunteers in May. You may sign up for 7:30—9:00 AM, which is specifically for unloading trucks and restocking. 9:00—11:00 AM is for filling sacks and distribution. 11:00 AM—1:00 PM is for distribution to guests. We also have a Friday evening service from 5:00—8:00 PM. We will be closed on Memorial Day. Please consider joining us!

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

## Today at Kountze

### Sunday School

This Sunday I will post a video of the Children's sermon on this page (KMLC Parent Group). In addition, I will be providing some printable activities

### Attendance and Giving

**Online Attendance:** 208

**Pantry Guests Served:** 322

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 23

#### Offering:

\$14,855.04 (Regular) \$3,927.94 (Specials)

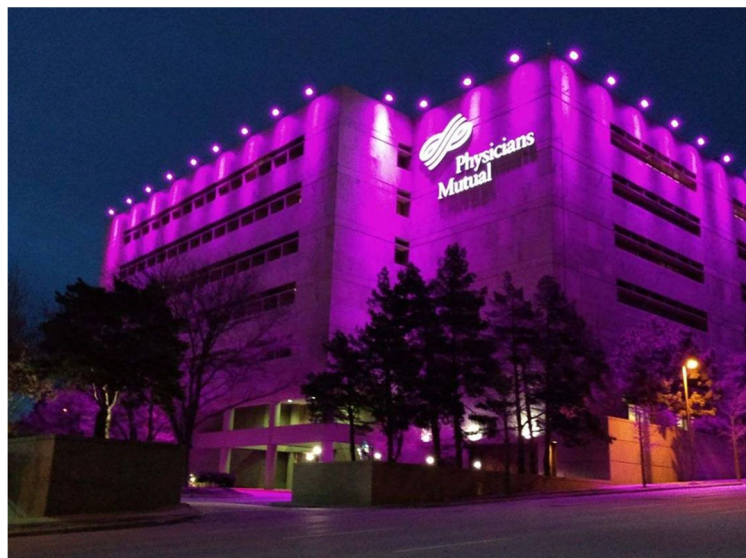
\$467.00 (Phase 2)

that relate to the lesson. Take a picture of your child's work and post it in the comments. Let's stay as connected as possible while we can't gather together. Stay tuned for more fun activities!

In Peace,  
Kristin

**Youth Forum** will be at 10:30 AM via Zoom. Contact Mike Jensen at [mwjensen@yahoo.com](mailto:mwjensen@yahoo.com) for details.

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Pat & Robert Ranney in honor of their wedding anniversary; by Myrna Esluer in memory of her mother's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.



This past Tuesday was a great day at deFreese Manor. The residents had a great lunch from the Company Kitchen at Physician Mutual and then got to watch these lights! On May 1<sup>st</sup> they will bring May Day bags and will do some chalk art on our sidewalks. (Pictured at right)

*Followers of Jesus shepherd one another.*

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd
Monday	Acts 2:42-47	Life among believers
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:19-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Wednesday	Galatians 6:1-10	Bear one another's burdens
Thursday	Ezekiel 34:11-31	God, the true shepherd
Friday	Romans 12:9-18	Marks of the true Christian
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my Shepherd
Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life



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Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.

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, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. **Acts 2:46-47a (NRSV)**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God our Savior and Good Shepherd, keep us close to your care, and in our times of suffering may we trust in you. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, thank you for preparing a table for us that we may be strengthened for our journey as we follow you, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the shepherd and protector of your souls forgive you and give you peace forevermore. (1 Peter 2:24-25)

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How does a shepherd care for the sheep?
- In what ways can we care for one another as a shepherd does the sheep?
- How is Jesus a shepherd to you?

*Read: Acts 2:42-47.*

Every year the Fourth Sunday of Easter is the "Good Shepherd Sunday." Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord is our shepherd. 1 Peter 2:25 states that Jesus is "the shepherd and guardian of your souls." John 10 speaks of the sheep who follow because they know the voice of the shepherd (v. 4). Acts 2 gives a picture of what the community of the Good Shepherd looks like. It is a people who shepherd one another by sharing their possessions (v. 45). Together they study the word of God, have fellowship, break bread and pray. Fellow shepherds of the soul do these things. Daily they worship publicly but also break bread in homes with "glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people" (vv. 46b-47a). The result is a community that by its very way of life and by the power of God adds "to their number those who [are] being saved" (v. 47b). A community of people caring for one another witnesses to God's love and results in more souls in the sheepfold. How is your home a place to shepherd souls?

**Pray: Good Shepherd, thank you for calling out to us through a community that cares for one another publicly and also in our daily lives. Amen.**

"They would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need" (Acts 2:45). There are many in our communities who are in need of food, clothing, and household goods. Organize or have a yard sale in your neighborhood with the proceeds going to those in need. If possible, place an ad in the local paper.

Draw or find a picture of a sheep. Imagine you are the shepherd for this sheep. Make a list of things you would do to take care of the sheep. Psalm 23 begins with the words, "The Lord is my shepherd." Read Psalm 23 and compare your list with the ways the Lord cares for sheep. Think about someone in your life who needs love and care. How can you be a shepherd for them?

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14