

# A Service of Praise and Prayer for Sunday April 25, 2021



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF  
NIAGARA

Prelude: Une Petite Ciaconna, A minor (anon.)

## WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### GATHERING

Bishop: O Lord open our lips!

**All: and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

Bishop: Lead your people to freedom, O God,

**All: and banish all darkness from our hearts and minds**

### THE COLLECT

Bishop: Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**All: Amen**

**We sing together...** The Lord's my shepherd (Common Praise #519)

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; he leadeth me  
the quiet waters by.
2. My soul he doth restore again,  
and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness,  
e'en for his own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
yet will I fear none ill,  
for thou art with me and thy rod  
and staff me comfort still.
4. My table thou hast furnished  
in presence of my foes.  
My head thou dost with oil anoint,  
and my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my life  
shall surely follow me,  
and in God's house forevermore  
my dwelling place shall be.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### A READING: 1 John 3:16-24

Reader: We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

**CALLED TO LIFE**  
**COMPELLED TO LOVE**

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Reader: Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word,  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

*A short silence meditating on the reading is kept.*

### THE GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint John.

**All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

One: 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own 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 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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.'

The Gospel of Christ.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**We sing together...** Blest are the Pure in Heart (Common Praise #439)

1. Blest are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see our God;  
the secret of the Lord is theirs,  
their soul is Christ's abode.
2. The Lord, who left the heavens  
our life and peace to bring,  
to dwell in lowliness with men,  
their pattern and their King;
3. Still to the lowly soul  
he doth himself impart,  
and for his dwelling and his throne  
chooseth the pure in heart.
4. Lord, we thy presence seek;  
may ours this blessing be;  
give us a pure and lowly heart,  
a temple meet for thee.

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**THE HOMILY:** Bishop Susan Bell

*Music is played during a time of reflection.*

## INTERCESSIONS

One: Let us pray....

God of Resurrection, our hope and our joy,  
our comfort and our support,  
we make our prayer to you saying,

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Great shepherd of the sheep,  
we pray for your church throughout the world and for all called to leadership;  
that our bishops, priests, deacons and lay leaders  
may follow always in your example  
of loving service, inclusive love, and sacrificial care.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Great shepherd of the sheep,  
we pray for all those who need your protection at this time,  
for children and their teachers, educational support workers,  
for school administrators, cleaners and bus drivers,  
for families seeking to stay safe.  
We pray for those caring for the sick,  
and for those who are vulnerable to illness and infection,  
that you would hide them under the shadow of your wing.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Great shepherd of the sheep,  
who sought the lost and lonely,  
we pray for the isolated,  
and for those who, in the midst of this pandemic,  
are overwhelmed with anxiety and fear.  
We pray for those far from family and friends,  
and those who must work far from home;  
that your Spirit would surround and comfort them,  
and connect them to the support and care they need.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

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One: Great shepherd of the sheep, who tends the sick,  
we pray for all who are in any kind of suffering and illness,  
especially for those suffering with COVID-19;  
and for those in hospital and those isolating at home.

In this time of silence, we name them before you, silently or aloud,

*Silence is kept*

Grant them your healing touch.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Great shepherd of the sheep, who lays down your life for us,  
we give thanks for all those who, through work  
or service, give themselves to the well being of others and our communities:  
for our emergency services,  
for personal support workers and all in long term care settings,  
for those who work in public health,  
for counsellors and social workers,  
for those who sustain our power and water supplies,  
for all essential workers.

Strengthen them for their work and give them rest and refreshment  
and the knowledge of our gratitude and your blessing.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Great shepherd of the sheep, bringer of peace and security,  
we pray for peace in the world:  
for an end to conflict and the healing of the wounded and traumatized.  
for unity in the common cause of care, protect, healing  
and for the well-being of all.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: Great shepherd of the sheep,  
who walks with us in the world you made,  
give us grace to walk gently upon the land;  
to appreciate the air and water, and  
to marvel at the wonder of the diversity and power of the created world.  
Forgive us where we abuse and mar, and exploit your beautiful work,  
and shape us to live in peace and balance.

Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

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Bishop: Trusting in the compassion of God, and in the language and version of our choice, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All: 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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**We Sing Together...** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (Common Praise #306)

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!
2. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease,  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.
3. He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
New life the dead receive,  
The mournful broken hearts rejoice,  
The humble poor believe.
4. Hear him, ye deaf, ye voiceless ones,  
Your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come,  
And leap, ye lame for joy!
5. My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread thro' all the earth abroad  
the honors of your name.

*Closing remarks and announcements.*

### THE BLESSING

**POSTLUDE:** Chorale Prelude on "Salve Festa Dies" (anon.)