

Traditional Worship

April 26, 2026

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

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us – arr. Dale Wood

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

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

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN #883 *

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our Shepherd who calls us by name,
who leads us beside still waters,
and who restores our souls.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Good Shepherd,
we confess that we have gone astray like sheep.

**Assembly: We have followed paths of our own choosing
and have ignored your voice calling us to life.
We have turned away from those in need,
fearing scarcity instead of trusting your abundance.
We have failed to love one another as you have loved us.
Seek us when we are lost,
carry us when we are weak,
and lead us back into your fold.
Forgive us, renew us, and restore us,
that we may follow you in paths of righteousness
and dwell in your house forever.**

Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news:
the Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
In † Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.
We are known, we are forgiven, we are claimed, and we are loved.
We follow where Christ leads us that we may have life
and have it abundantly.

Assembly: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Let us pray.
O God our shepherd,
you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety
through the valleys of death.
Guide us by your voice,
that we may 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.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

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

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

*The cantor sings the refrain and then the assembly joins in the refrain.
The cantor then sings the verses and the assembly joins in each refrain.*



- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
- ² The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- ³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴ 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...*Refrain*
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever...*Refrain*

SECOND READING

I 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.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ 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.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ 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. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY #502 – Verses 1-3 *

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #502 – Verses 4-6 *

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS *

PRAYERS *

PEACE *

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

The assembly greets each other with “peace be with you...and also with you.”

You’re invited to share God’s peace with those around you.

If you’re worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

He Shall Feed His Flock – John Ness Beck

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.



*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm,
And carry them in His bosom, and gently shall lead those that are with young.*

*He shall gather the lambs in His arm, He will shelter them,
And carry them close to His heart; and gently shall lead those with young.*

(The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Amen.)

OFFERTORY *

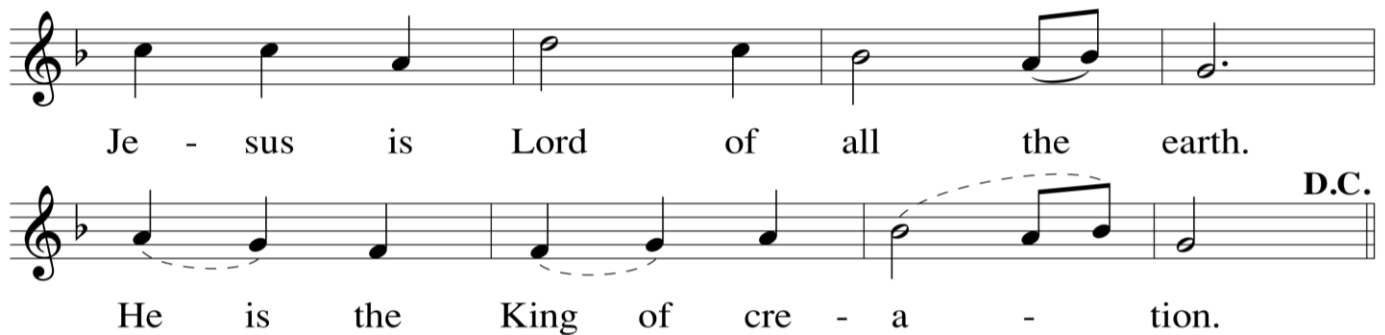
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the
ris-en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his Name.

Verse



Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of cre - a - tion. **D.C.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

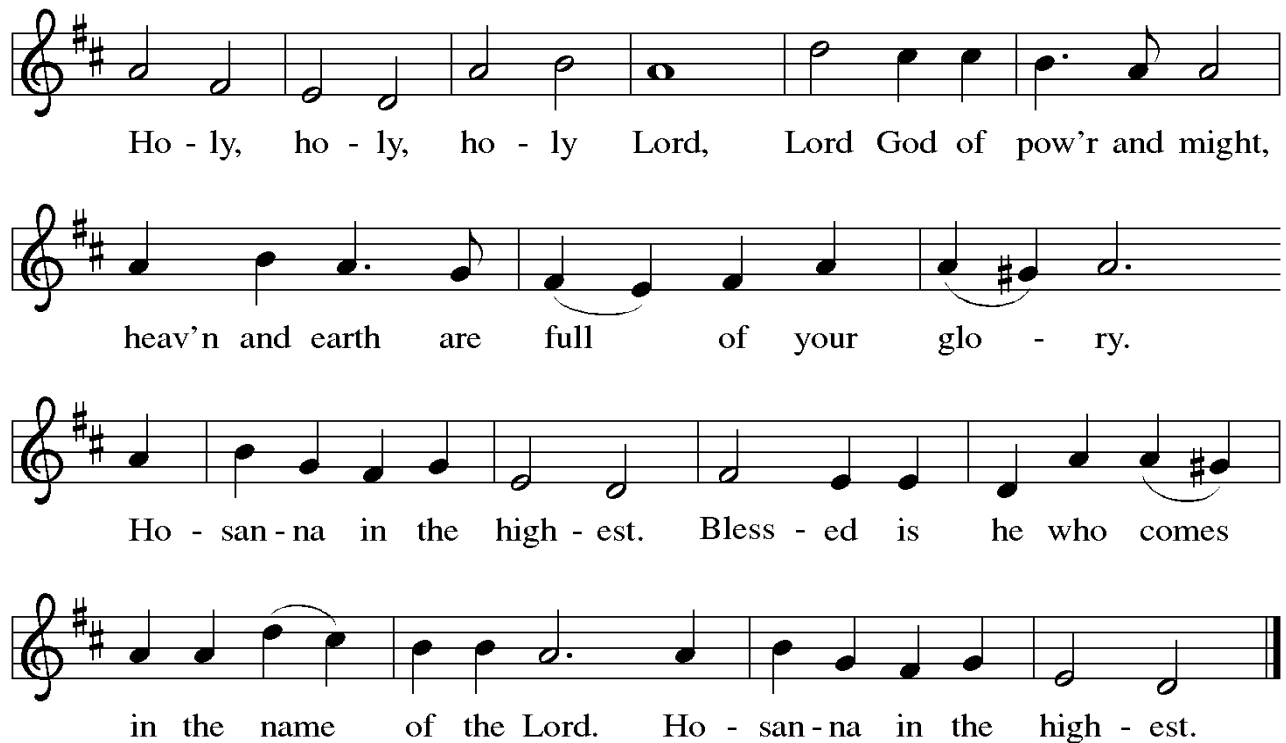
Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: 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 Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep
and, rising again, gathers us into one flock
and leads us beside the waters of life.

By his voice we are called and known;
by his love we are sent to care for one another.

We give you thanks for all who hear that call and follow in service,
especially those who offer their time and gifts
for the sake of your church and your world.

Strengthen them in their calling,
and make all of us faithful servants of your grace,
that, guided by Christ, we may share in the work of your kingdom.
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:



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

LORD'S PRAYER *

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.

LAMB OF GOD *



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.

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.

You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Pastor: Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

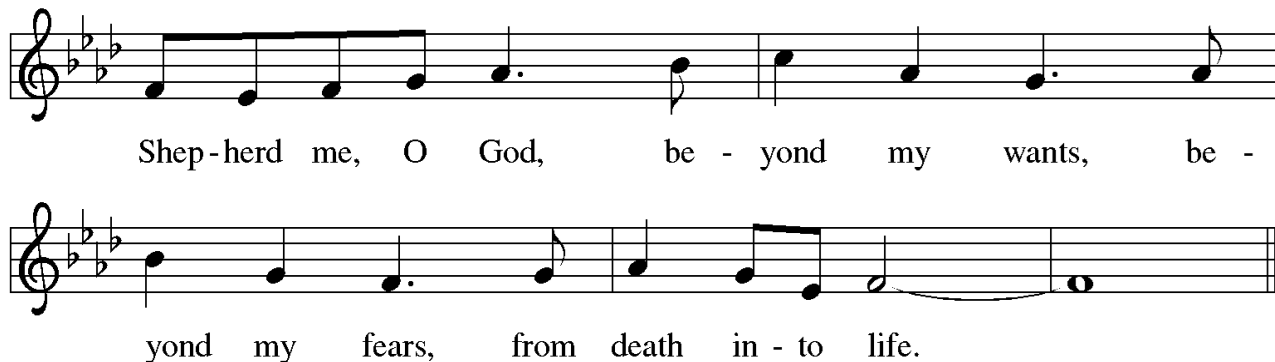
As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution – Hymn #780 – *Shepherd Me, O God*

*The cantor will sing the refrain and then the assembly joins in the refrain.
The cantor sings the verses and all join in the refrain as indicated.*



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "yond my fears, from death in - to life." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes.

- Verse 1: God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace...*Refrain*
- Verse 2: Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name...*Refrain*
- Verse 3: Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope...*Refrain*
- Verse 4: You have set me a banquet of love
in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold...*Refrain*
- Verse 5: Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore...*Refrain*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Leader: The body and blood of the risen Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace,
now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: Almighty God,
who raised our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep,
bless and keep you in his care.
May Christ, who calls you by name and leads you in right paths,
guide you in lives of faithful service
and fill you with compassion for all in need.
May the Holy Spirit, who gathers the flock into one body,
strengthen all who offer their gifts in service—
and renew in each of us the joy of serving in Christ's name.
✠ Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING HYMN #789 *

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go forth in gratitude and restoration,
to serve and be served, and to love and be loved,
for we need each other to be the body of Christ,
and we cannot do this alone.
May we be united as one flock of the Good Shepherd.

Assembly: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *

Rondeau – from Premiere Suite, 1st Movement – Jean Joseph Mouret

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Joe Weaver, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00
Bev Sapienza, Lector & Communion Assistant 11:10
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Samuel Owens, Cantor
Jane McFadden, Chancel Choir Accompanist

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FLOWER DEDICATION:

*Flowers are given by Faith and Walt Bauer in memory of our parents,
Harold and Agatha Yochum, and John and Esther Bauer.*

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