

**Sunday, April 26, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons 2026**

**INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY**

*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.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

**GATHERING**

*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, please face the baptismal font as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God,  
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness  
who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.  
Break down barriers that divide us.  
Fill us with the breath of peace.  
Blessed are you.  
**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.  
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Gathering Hymn: ELW # 367 “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”**

#### **Greeting**

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

#### **Prayer of the Day**

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. **Amen.**

*Please be seated as the children come forward.*

#### **Children’s Time**

#### **THE WORD**

##### **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.*

<sup>42</sup> [The 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 through 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 23 (Read Responsively)**

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

<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.*

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures 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 good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <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, having died to 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.

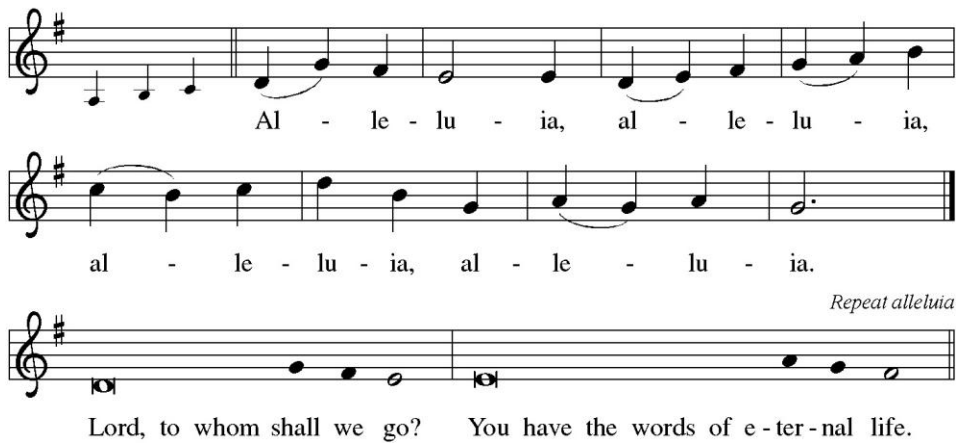
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**



*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW Setting # 1 – S103**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**Gospel: John 10:1-10**

The Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*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.*

[Jesus 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

**Pastor Steven Kuhl**

*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 502 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”**

## The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Pastor:** Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured *especially those we name aloud or in our hearts. (A brief silence)*. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing.  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

**Pastor:** God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words. The assembly is seated.*

**Offering** – Collection of our offerings.

*Song during offering – Music Only – ELW # 684 "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"*

*Please rise as you are able in body or spirit.*

### **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, together.

Merciful God,  
**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.**  
**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day**  
**when we will hunger and thirst no more.**  
**Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,**  
**that goodness and mercy may follow us**  
**and bless the world you love.**  
**In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## **THE MEAL**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

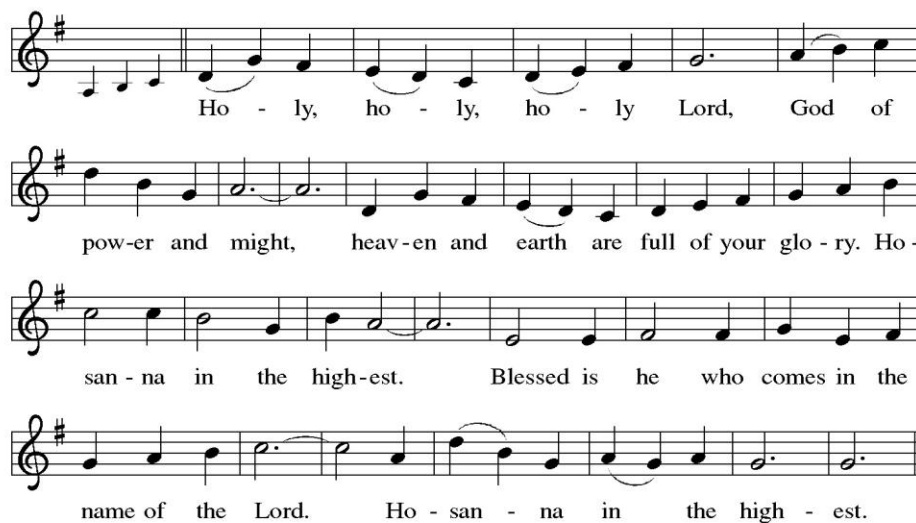
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE – for the Season of Easter

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: Holy, Holy, Holy

### ELW Setting # 1 – S 108



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### The Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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

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

*Please be seated and wait to come forward for Holy Communion after the singing of The Lamb of God song.*

## Lamb of God

## ELW Setting # 1 – S 112

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.

## HYMN DURING COMMUNION: ELW # 479 “We Come to the Hungry Feast”

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands. The presiding minister may say a table blessing; the assembly responds **Amen.***

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray, together.

Holy One,  
**through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new.  
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.  
In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## **SENDING BLESSING**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG: ELW # 763 “My Life Flows On in Endless Song”**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**



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#### **Today's Lay Leaders**

**Lector:** Sandy Ringwall

**Ushers:** Judy Goodwin & George Becker

**Communion Assistant:** Sandy Ringwall

**Altar Guild:** Deanna Posig

**Altar Guild for Wednesday Evenings:**  
Joann Voegeli and Joyce Weinert

**Music & Worship Coordinator:** Barb  
Regent

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