

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – 10 AM

### WELCOME



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.

✠ Preacher – Chaplain Liz Lahti-Rosensaft

✠ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God, **you asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them, but then withdrew them for the work was too hard. You asked for my eyes to see the needs around me, but I closed them for I did not want to see. You asked for my life that you might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get to involved. Lord, forgive my efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so. Renew me and lead me, so that I may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. Live now as the forgiven child of God and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into all righteousness. **Amen.**

### **OPENING HYMN: ELW#385 – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing**

**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.**

### **GOD'S HOLY WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Acts 2:42 - 47**

<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.

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**



## Psalm 23

<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.**



### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of John 10: 1 - 10; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

[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, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### SERMON – Chaplain Liz Lahti-Rosensaft

**HYMN: ELW#789 – Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

† *We recognize all joining us virtually and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests.*

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. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* 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.**

Gracious Father, we seek Your divine wisdom and guidance in our search for a shepherd to lead us with humility, love, and grace. Lord, bless our search process, our call committee and open doors to reveal the right candidate to us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*(Additional Petitions may be offered.)*

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.**

## **OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER**

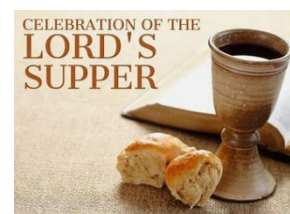
O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, we know that all we have received is from your hand. You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. **Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

And on 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.



For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest and pray unto you the prayer he taught us to pray -

**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.

**OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

<b>1: On Bended Knee</b>	<b>2: Change My Heart O God</b>
<p>On bended knee I come, with a humble heart I come,            Bowing down before Your holy throne.            Lifting holy hands to You, as I pledge my love anew,            I worship You in spirit, I worship you in truth,            Make my life a holy praise unto You.            © 1988 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI License # 22085334</p>	<p>Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.            Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.            You are the potter, I am the clay.            Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.            Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.            Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.</p>

**COMMUNION HYMN 3: Glorify Thy Name**

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| <p>1. Father we love You,<br/>           We praise and adore You,<br/>           Glorify Thy name in all the earth.<br/>           Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,<br/>           Glorify Thy name in all the earth.</p> <p>2. Jesus we love You<br/>           We praise and adore You,<br/>           Glorify Thy name in all the earth.<br/>           Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,<br/>           Glorify Thy name in all the earth.</p> | <p>3. Spirit we love You<br/>           We praise and adore You,<br/>           Glorify Thy name in all the earth.<br/>           Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,<br/>           Glorify Thy name in all the earth.</p> |
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**Closing Prayer** - 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.**

**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.**

**CLOSING HYMN: Shout to the Lord**

**CHORUS:**

Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing.  
Power and majesty praise to the King  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar;  
at the sound of Your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands;  
Forever I'll love You - forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You  
All of my days I want to praise  
the wonders of Your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength  
Let every breath, All that I am,  
Never cease to worship you  
**(CHORUS)**

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**Dismissal:** Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Notes:**

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