

April 26, 2026

*Fourth Sunday of
Easter*



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Divine Service:

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am
Sundays

Adult Bible Study &
Sunday School:

9:30 am

+

Pastor:

Richard Willsea

Deaconess:

Karen Suter

Organist:

Patty Barnes

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Today we will observe The Lord's Supper... *The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

PRELUDE

"Let the Trumpet Sound!"
"Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

L. Smith
R. Hughes

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

LSB 711



1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we
2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and
4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly



need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures
guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -
sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -
let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly



feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.
 fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.
 lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have



bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,



bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.
 bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.
 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68
 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

† **SERVICE OF THE WORD** †

INTROIT

- P** I am the good shepherd.
I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.
- C** **Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**
- P** Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!
- C** **For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

P Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

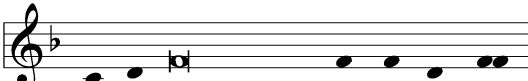
C **For He is our God,**
and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P I am the good shepherd.
I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

KYRIE

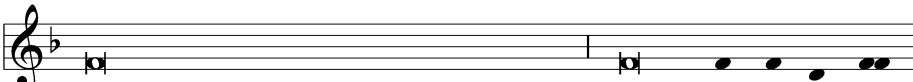
LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.




A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



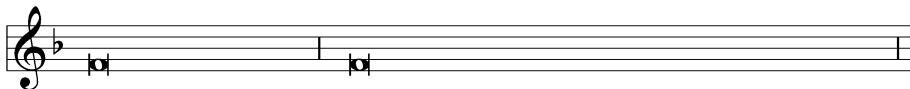
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



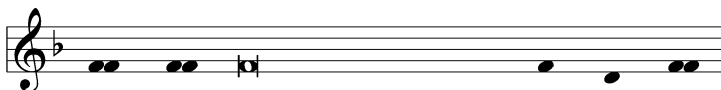
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



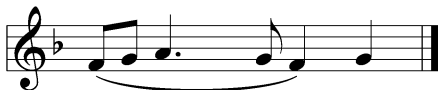
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

THIS IS THE FEAST

LSB 155



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42–47

The Word is read...

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 23; antiphon: v. 1



¹The LORD is my | shepherd;*
I | shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green | pastures.*
He leads me beside still | waters.

³He re- | stores my soul.*
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are | with me;*
your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my | enemies;*
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup | overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days | of my life,*
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for- | ever.

JR CHOIR, 11:00 Service

“Gentle Shepherd”
William Gaither, arr. by Joseph Linn

Led by Merna Ahlemeyer

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:19-25

The Word is read...

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156



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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-fourth chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

The Gospel is read...

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

LSB 740

1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
 2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
 3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the

heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
 staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
 Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,

Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
 In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
 By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me

day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
 bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
 to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
 Tune: Choral-Buch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, 1784, Leipzig
 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

- ☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, our blessed Shepherd, and for all people according to their needs:
We pray for the whole church, that through it, the goodness of God be shared and the Good News of salvation joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world.
Gracious Shepherd,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for those who are in need, assured of the Shepherd's care for all His sheep. Give us hearts to seek to meet the needs of those who travel with us through life as we are led by our Good Shepherd day by day. Merciful Shepherd,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for the nations of the world, asking that still waters of peace flow around the globe and that there be goodness and kindness among all peoples. Loving Shepherd,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for our families and everyone in them. Grant that together we follow the Good Shepherd as one flock in which all dwell in love and unity. Gentle Shepherd,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We pray for those whose tables are set in difficult or challenging places, whose lives know want or discord or sadness or continuing illness. Gently guide them with Your rod and staff, Good Shepherd, and keep them ever with You. Caring Shepherd,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

- A** With gratefulness we remember those who already dwell in the eternal house of the Lord forever. Inspired us to pass throughout our earthly journeys with faith and with hope as we heed the voice of our Good Shepherd and follow in His ways.
Eternal Shepherd,
- C** hear our prayer. Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"The Lord's My Shepherd"

arr. C. Berry

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 159

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.



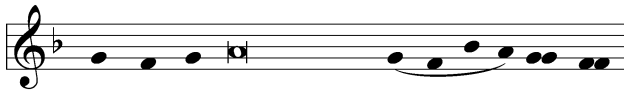
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



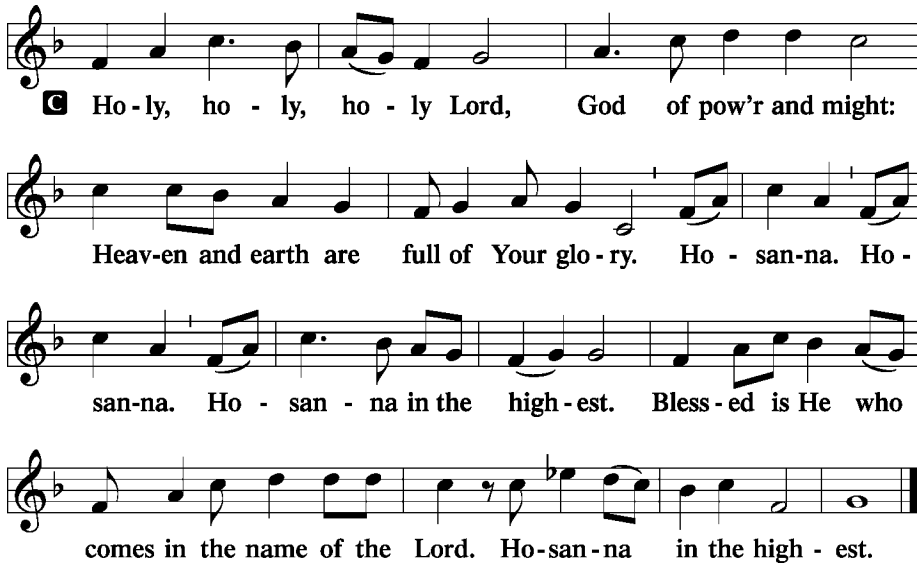
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

LSB 851

1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our
 4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your

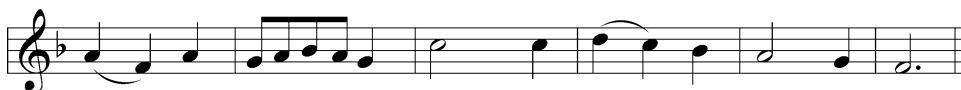
life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
 hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the

lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 sen - tence, “You have done it all to Me.”
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.

And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py
 deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-89, alt.
 Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87
 Text and tune: Public domain

VOLUNTARY

"Lord of Glory You Have Bought Us" setting: N. Raabe

Stand

CANTICLE

"Thank the Lord"

LSB 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

☐ Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would

strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



COMMITTAL OF VIVIAN SHEPARD, (9:30 AM Service) Please see insert

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

HYMN

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"

LSB 735

1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; Have no fear, lit - tle
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; Have good cheer, lit - tle
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; Praise the Lord high a -
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; Thank - ful hearts raise to

flock, For the Fa - ther has cho - sen To
 flock, For the Fa - ther will keep you In
 bove, For He stoops down to heal you, Up -
 God, For He stays close be - side you, In

give you the King - dom; Have no fear, lit - tle flock!
 His love for - ev - er; Have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
 lift and re - store you; Praise the Lord high a - bove!
 all things works with you; Thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text (sts. 2-4): Marjorie A. Jillson, 1931-2010
 Text (st. 1) and tune: Heinz Werner Zimmermann, 1930-2022
 Text and tune: © 1973 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

"Christ the Lord Has Risen!"

T. Birchwood

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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