

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Door of Jesus' Cross

April 25, 2026

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### AS WE GATHER

The place where we worship is often called the Lord's house. It is a sacred space, a holy house, and more. It is our blessed home. English clergyman Isaac Watts, who authored hundreds of hymn texts during his life, concluded his paraphrase of the Twenty-Third Psalm in this memorable way: "The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; oh, may His house be my abode and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home" (*OAR* 272). We are so much more than strangers or guests here today. We are children at home. Paul writes to the Ephesians and to us, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children" (Ephesians 5:1).

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

**MINISTRY MOMENT** *Helping Hands Presented by Ladies Guild*

### VERSE

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. **Hebrews 13:20-21**

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN #711 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.  
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;  
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.

**People: I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."**

Pastor: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.

**People: The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

Pastor: Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

**People: You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: LORD, you were favorable to your land;

**People: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of your people;

**People: You covered all their sin.**

Pastor: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

**People: and grant us your salvation.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

**People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, mighty Judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have not lived up to our calling as your peaceable people. We have not extended ourselves to bring your peace in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We have not done the good you demand and have not been the people you would have us be. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on us, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son. Forgive us all that needs your forgiving grace and with the power of the Holy Spirit direct us to serve you faithfully all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: God has promised His merciful forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in confession. He will revive them and speak peace to His people. In His stead and by His command, therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of peace and joy, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB p. 155

**Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. *Amen. Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

## ☩ WORD ☩

**FIRST READING** *Acts 2:42–47* (The life of the first Christians includes learning and fellowship.) <sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *1 Peter 2:19–25* (Christ, who suffered for us, sets an example for us.) <sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because

Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR** *“The Lord’s My Shepherd”*

**(Rise)**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 10:1–10* (Jesus says He is the gate of the sheep.)

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

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

**“This Is the Day”** AGPS #241

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.  
I will rejoice, I will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it,  
This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

## SERMON HYMN #709 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.

In death’s dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

**SERMON** **“The Good Shepherd’s Comfort”** John 10:1-10

(Rise)

**OFFERTORY** See Insert

## 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.

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: Loving Father, your Son is the great Shepherd of the sheep, who faithfully gathers His flock to Himself in the pastures of the Church. Grant us steadfast faith to hear His voice and follow Him, even through the valley of the shadow of death, that we may receive our portion in His abundant life. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious God, bestow the gift of Christ's wisdom and tenderness upon all who are called to shepherd the souls of your people. Teach believers everywhere to receive their pastors as a gift from you and to follow Christ, the Good Shepherd. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, bless all missionaries and servants in Christ's church. We especially pray for our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family. Bless also Helping Hands ministries as they show the compassion of Christ to people in need. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, hear our prayers for all Christian homes. Preserve all married couples in love and faithfulness; strengthen all parents for their task as raise children in the nurture of Christ; uphold the unmarried in their station and provide companionship; and with good deeds in every home, may our families bear witness to Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Mighty Shepherd, you hold in your hands all the might of man, and you hold accountable those who would govern your people. Grant to us good government and leaders who will honor your purpose, protect your people, serve the cause of justice and defend our liberty. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Author of life, we praise and thank you for the gift of life and the precious people you place in our lives. We rejoice with the Weil family as they celebrate Stacey's birthday, even as we celebrate with Mike and Sandy upon their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of comfort and healing, hear our prayers as we intercede for one another in every need, especially for Sharon, Timothy, Michael, Barb, Marlene, Katherine, Zach, Carole, Kathy, Dan, Maxine, Pam, Marilyn, Dorothy, Janet, Jerry, Paula, Rhonda, Harland, June, John, Debbie, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Guy, Jill, Cathy and Sarah. Work by your mercy for their good now and eternally, and add to our number those who are being saved, until you bring us to the day when we will rest eternally in your safekeeping. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Father of glory, you have promised to prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies and to fill our cup of salvation to overflowing. Bless all who receive the Sacrament at this altar this day, that even amid sin, death and the devil, your goodness and mercy may follow us all the days of our lives, and we may dwell in your house forever. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, in your name your Son purchased us with His own most holy blood, and He now leads us through the gate of death to our eternal home with you. As the sheep of His fold, inspire us to hear His voice gladly and to follow Him steadfastly through every tribulation. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, wholesome, and proper that we give thanks to you, our gracious heavenly Father, for in your goodness you have given your only-begotten Son for our salvation. By the guiding of your Spirit, direct our ways that we may follow the Good Shepherd through all of our lives so that we may be gathered at the Table which He has prepared before us. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in the green pastures of your eternal kingdom. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SANCTUS

LSB p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

THE 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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB p. 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #721

**“Lead Me, Guide Me”**

Refrain:

**Lead me, guide me, along the way; For if You lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r To help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in Thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

I am lost if You take Your hand from me, I am blind without Thy light to see. Lord,  
always let me Thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

HYMN #463 **“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia”**

Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!  
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!  
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!  
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!  
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!  
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!  
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!  
When contending death and life, Alleluia!  
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!  
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!  
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

**HYMN #537 "Beautiful Savior"**

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love Thee,  
Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,  
Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, our heavenly Father, as part of your loving plan for us you have again welcomed us at your Table.  
We thank you for the blessings of this Holy Meal. As the bread was once

scattered as seed upon the fields and after being harvested was made one, so let your church be gathered together into one flock from the ends of the earth until at last we taste the fullness of your great goodness in your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #722 "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"**

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way:  
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.  
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,  
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.  
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,  
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,  
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.  
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

Preacher & Liturgist

Lector

Organist

Pastor Michael Schumacher

Gary Knight

Deaconess Carole King