

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026
10:30 AM

The
sheep
follow
him
because
they
know
his
voice.

John 10:4, NRSV



"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"
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To some contemporary Christians, the image of Christ as shepherd appears outdated. Yet the continuing popularity of this "Good Shepherd Sunday" and the tender psalm appointed for the liturgy begs the question, Why are moderns attracted to a shepherd? Is it not that we yearn for guidance, protection, and strength in a world that is filled with much chaos, violence, and fast-paced change? The liturgy this day offers the image of our God as shepherd: the one who guides us—not out of this world, but in and through it with staff and overflowing cup, with word and holy supper.

PRELUDE

Stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

P Most merciful God, **C** **Have mercy on us.**

C **We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.**

P With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Stand

SHARING OF THE PEACE *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" Saints on earth and an - gels say;
 2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Fought the fight, the bat - tle won;
 3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
 4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King! Where, O death, is now thy sting?

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply.
 Lo! Our Sun's e - clipse is o'er; Lo! He sets in blood no more.
 Death in vain for - bids His rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Once He died our souls to save; Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?

5 Soar we now where Christ has led;
 Follow our exalted Head.
 Made like Him, like Him we rise;
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
 Praise to Thee by both be giv'n!
 Thee we greet triumphant now:
 Hail, the resurrection, Thou!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
 Tune: French, 13th cent.; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS
 77 77

Text and music: Public domain

Luke 24:4–7; 1 Cor. 15:55–57; 1 Peter 1:18–21; Rev. 5:9–13

KYRIE

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

P In peace, in peace, let us pray to the

C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray — to the

Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

For your peo - ple here, who have come to
Lord, have mer - cy.

give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray — to the

Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Help, save, and de -
Lord, have mer - cy.

fend us, O God.
A -

(accompaniment/intro)
men.

Continue the following without interruption. All sing the Refrain.

Refrain
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre -

a - tion sings for joy to the God of

life and love and free-dom; praise and
 glo-ry for ev - er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
 slain, _____ whose blood has freed and u -
 nit - ed us to be one great
 peo - ple of God. _____ *to Refrain*

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
 might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ _____
 _____ for - ev - er. _____ *to Refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, —
— to make us peo- ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Children are invited to meet by the Cross for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON 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 outpoured on God's people. This new community is founded on the teachings of the apostles and sustained in the breaking of the bread.

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

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

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 2:19-25

The First Letter of Peter addresses the theme of suffering. Jesus, the shepherd and guardian of our souls, models for Christians how one suffers for doing what is right.

R It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. 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.

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

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

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA

| ---- Introduction ---- |

C Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-
ter-nal life. Al-le-lu - ia! *(Repeat, starting after intro.)*

GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to John, Chapter 10, beginning at verse 1.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Good shepherds bring people to life through Jesus, but those who avoid Jesus are dangerous to the flock.

P Jesus said: "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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they

do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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.**

Sit

MESSAGE "I Am the Gate"

Stand

HYMN "The Lord's My Shepherd"



1 The Lord's my shep - herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, And me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence of my foes;



In pas - tures green; he lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
With - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, E'en for his own name's sake;
For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me com - fort still;
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
With - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, E'en for his own name's sake.
For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.



5 Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

Text: Psalter, Edinburgh, 1650
Tune: J. L. Macbeth Bain, c. 1840-1925, adapt.

PRAYERS

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "hear our prayer." The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF THE TABLE

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



Stand

OFFERTORY SONG

C

introduction ----- | *Refrain*

rit. As the grains of wheat once
scat-tered on the hill were gath-ered in - to one to be -
come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in
Verses
(1st & 2nd times: go to verses;
3rd time: end) 1. As this cup of bless-ing is
2. Let this be a fore-taste of

shared with - in our midst, _____ may we share the
all that is to come when all cre - a - tion

pres - ence of your love. (Sing Refrain & 2nd Vs.)
shares this feast with you. (Sing Refrain once more)

P Let us pray. Giver of life,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

P It is our duty and delight... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

|--Introduction - |

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly are you, God of
 pow - er and might; Heav-en and earth are
 filled with your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est!
 Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho-
 san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high-est!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

P 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

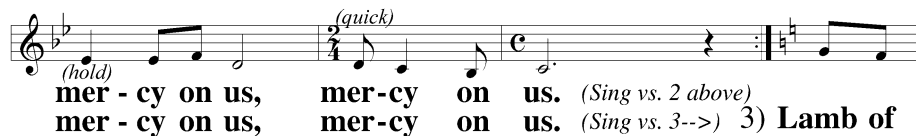
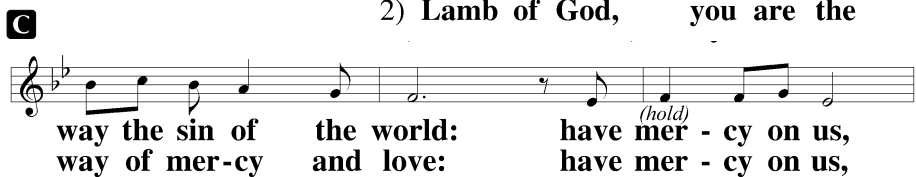
Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

C 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

AGNUS DEI



1) Lamb of God, you take a -
2) Lamb of God, you are the



Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.

HYMN "I Am Jesus Little Lamb"

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*, Leipzig, 1784; setting: Ewald Weiss, 1906–98
 Text and tune: Public domain
 Setting: © 1984 Bavarian Lutheran Church

WEIL ICH JESU SCHÄFLEIN BIN
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Psalms 23: 1s, 40:11; 49:10; John 21:15

HYMN “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

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.

Continued on next page



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.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C** Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE AND PRAYER



1) Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: Thanks be to
 2) From of old you loved and sought us: Thanks be to

C



you for - ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and
 you for - ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have



low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er! (*sing vs. 2*)
 taught us: Thanks be to you for - ev - er! (*cont.-->*)



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

Praise to you O God of mer-cy: Thanks be to you for -
 ev - er! Rais-ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to
 you for - ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

P Let us pray. We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love towards one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

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.

P Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
 love He sought me And on His shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my

I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

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

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

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77
 Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent.; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958

ST. COLUMBA
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Text and music: Public domain

Psalm 23; John 10:11; Luke 15:4-7; Rev. 7:17

POSTLUDE

---- *The liturgy is ended; let the service begin* ----

Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord and concur in our confession.

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.
