

4th Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Liturgy: Good Shepherd

Organist: Lana Strike



ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: WS #783

“Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep”

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

Confession & Absolution

Ps. 80:1-3; Ps. 28:8-9

- P** “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.”

C “You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.”

- P** “Stir up Your might and come to save us!”

C “Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!”

- P** Let us confess our sins before God and one another:

C Heavenly Father, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way.” We confess that by our thoughts, our words, and our actions we have strayed from Your commands. We have turned from Your love and gone our own way. Because of our wayward sin, we deserve to be sheep that are forever lost. But we pray that for the sake of Your Lamb, Jesus Christ, that You would have mercy on us. With the psalmist we confess and pray: “I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.”

Is. 53:6; Ps. 119:176

- P** Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep and took it up again, rising from the dead for our justification. Through Jesus Christ, you are redeemed, restored, and forgiven. “For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

1 Pet. 2:25

- P** “The LORD is the strength of his people;”

C “He is the saving refuge of his anointed.”

- P** “Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!”

C “Be their shepherd and carry them forever.”

- P** Praise be to the Lamb that was slain for us, but who is alive forevermore!

C ♪ *Praised be the true Lamb, slain for our redemption,
By whose self-off'ring we are made God's people:
A priestly kingdom, from all tongues and nations,
Called to God's service.*

*To the Almighty, throned in heav'nly splendor,
And to the Savior, Christ our Lamb and Shepherd,
Be adoration, praise, and glory given,
Now and forever.*

The Collect Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C Amen.



John 10:1-10

"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. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who

I AM THE DOOR
if anyone enters by me,
HE WILL BE SAVED
and will go in
& out and find
PASTURE

came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.



1 Peter 2:19-25

For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

C I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn: TLH #279

"Today Thy Mercy Calls Us"



1 Samuel 17:31-37

When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him. ³² And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

“Go, and the LORD Be with You!”

- I. Without a shepherd, fear leads to death
- II. With our Good Shepherd, faith leads to life

The Offertory

TLH #523:7-8

♬ Lord, my Shepherd, take me to Thee. Thou art mine; I was Thine, Even e'er I knew Thee. I am Thine, for Thou hast bought me; Lost I stood, But Thy blood Free salvation brought me.

Thou art mine; I love and own Thee. Light of Joy, Ne'er shall I From my heart dethrone Thee. Savior, let me soon behold Thee Face to face, May Thy grace Evermore enfold me!

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Hymn: TLH #263

“O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe”

✠ **The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** ✠

✠ Order of Holy Communion ✠

The Preface

Tune of TLH #17: "Oh, Worship the King"

- P** ♪ The Lord be with you.
- G** ♪ **And also with you.**
- P** ♪ Oh, lift up your hearts.
- G** ♪ **'Tis proper to do.**
- P** ♪ The Lord, ever-living,
 great blessings imparts.
- G** ♪ **With praise and thanksgiving**
 We lift up our hearts.

P Always and everywhere praise and thanksgiving are due to you, holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might! For your promises fulfilled in Jesus Christ; for sin forgiven, death defeated, life restored forevermore, the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven join in their unending hymn:

G ♪ **Hosannas we raise! Our Lord Jesus Christ
Is worthy of praise! The Lamb sacrificed
Is raised to the right hand of God's holy throne!
Oh, tell of His might and extol Him alone!**

The Words of Institution

Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

Distribution Hymns:

TLH #313; WS #755; TLH #311

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

Thanksgiving

Tune of TLH #463: "For All the Saints"

☐ *♫ O Lord, now let Your servant go in peace,
For my own eyes have seen your great increase,
Light for the nations, nevermore to cease.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*All praise to God, the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, blessed Three-in-One,
As 'twas, is now, and ever shall be done:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

☐ 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.

☐ Amen.

The Benediction

Tune of TLH #17: "Oh, Worship the King"

☐ *♫ Our God from the dead the Shepherd did raise.
His sheep, safely led, on green pastures graze.
Christ's blood, once outpoured, Makes the covenant sure:
The grace of the Lord shall forever endure!*

☐ *♫ The Lord bless and keep, His favor increase,
That all God's dear sheep may dwell in His peace.*

☐ *♫ Wherever we gather, let praises be done
To Spirit, Son, Father—Great God, Three-in-One!*

Hymn: TLH #648

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

April 27th - May 2nd, 2026

Mon John 16:16-23 After Easter Jesus' disciples must have remembered these words, spoken by Him on the night of His betrayal. Now that He had returned to them, their sorrow was certainly turned to joy (v20).

Tues 1 Peter 2:11-12 The resurrection of Jesus makes such a difference in our lives! Now we have a future ahead of us that makes our stay here, with all it's temptations to sin, merely temporary, until He comes.

Wed 1 Peter 2:13-20 As people freed by the resurrection, may we not use our freedom to indulge ourselves, but rather to glorify God by doing good. If we suffer for doing good, and endure it, God is glorified.

Thurs Lamentations 3:18-26 In spite of affliction and suffering, the prophet remembers the mercies of the Lord, and he has hope. Wait for the Lord. It is good to hope quietly for the salvation of the Lord (v26).

Fri Psalm 146 Hallelujah! (Praise the Lord!) Assured of life through Jesus' resurrection, I will praise the Lord forever (v2)! Human helpers are so limited, but the Maker of heaven and earth reigns forever (v10).

Sat Psalm 75 Thanks be to God that He rules and upholds the earth. The wicked, who wag their horns at Him, will surely be brought down, even as the righteous will be lifted up (v10). Oh, give thanks!

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Dear Members of St. John's: My heart overflows with thankfulness, joy, and humility for the opportunity to serve the Lord and this congregation for 60 years! The support that has been given to me over all those years by everyone is overwhelming and such a blessing. It's been an honor! The Lord has blessed this congregation with so many talented people in so many capacities! All praises, honor, and glory to our God and Savior as He continues to watch over this congregation and care for us in Word and deed! Thank you all for a wonderful 60 years! In Christ ~ Kathy Lueck

"Pre-School" Interest? – Interest in a Pre-School program at St. John's has been expressed. After researching the strict state requirements for early childhood education, the school board has decided that a once-a-week art program during the school year for four and five-year-olds would be our best option. If you would be interested in such a program or want more information, talk to Mary Albrecht or Ruth Eigenberg.

St. John's Softball Team – If you are interested in playing coed softball this summer (Sundays in Windom), please speak with Christian Kazemba. There are no age or skill-level restrictions!

Voters' Meeting Summary – Lydia Kazemba, Anna Ahrens, and Amy Ruthenbeck were accepted into membership. <> The previously proposed constitutional amendments from the School Board were passed this meeting after being approved last meeting. These amendments have changed the school board from 3 to 5 members, each with 3 year terms. <> VBS will be held the week of July 13 - 17 from 9:00am to 11:30am. Kassie Voit will be coordinating as superintendent. The School Board will be calling VBS teachers. <> The Summer Worship Schedule will take effect on MAY 31st (the weekend after Memorial Day) with a 9:30 am service and Family Bible Class following. <> The flat roof on the Parsonage has been leaking. Rather than making a temporary fix, a motion passed to allow the Trustees to build another full room above the porch at the Parsonage, with help from volunteers or securing bids if necessary.

Sermon Notes

Text

Theme

Notes

Specific Law (How does this text point out my sin?)

Specific Gospel (How does this text point to Jesus?)

Specific Application (How does this text teach me to live?)
