

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026; 9 a.m.



**St John's**  
Lutheran Church

*(An usher rings the church bell at 8:55 a.m.)*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

*(Acolytes light the candles)*

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

arr. Douglas Wagner

JuBellation Handbell Choir

## Thanksgiving for Baptism *(please stand)*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

**Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*(water may be poured)*

Merciful God,

you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us, especially the mighty Chippewa,  
Eau Claire and Red Cedar rivers, for Wisconsin, Hallie, Altoona and Half Moon  
lakes, and for all the creeks and ponds. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.  
Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.  
Break down barriers that divide us.  
Fill us with the breath of peace.  
Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you  
honor and praise, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **Gathering Hymn**

*ELW #807; Come Thou Font of Every Blessing*

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
fills my heart with joy and love,  
teach me ever to adore thee;  
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:  
"Hither by thy help I've come";  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
 daily I'm constrained to be;  
 let that grace now like a fetter  
 bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
 prone to leave the God I love.  
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
 seal it for thy courts above.

## Apostolic Greeting

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

**And also with you.**

## Canticle of Praise

ACS Setting 12 – Glory to You vs. 1, 3

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;  
 yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.**

## Reading: Acts 2:42-47 (*please sit*)

<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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

ELW #780; *Shepherd Me, O God* by Marty Haugen

### *Refrain*

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.

- 1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain*
- 2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain*
- 3 Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,

your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *Refrain*

4 You have set me a banquet of love  
in the face of hatred,  
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain*

5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me  
all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain*

## Children's Time

*Splash, Splash in the Water* by JoyfulJams  
Brown Bag collection

## Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

ACS Setting 12



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



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## Gospel: John 10:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**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, O Christ.**

### **Sermon** *(please sit)*

"Listening to the Right Voice" -- Pastor Christine Emerson

### **Hymn of the Day** *(please stand)*

ACS #1085; *Hope of the World*, vs. 1, 2, 5

- 1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion,  
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.  
Save us, your people, from consuming passion,  
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
- 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,  
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:  
still let your Spirit unto us be given  
to heal earth's wounds and end all bitter strife.
- 5 Hope of the world, Christ ris'n from death victorious,  
who by this triumph conquered grief and pain:  
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious;  
you are our Lord and will forever reign!

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the  
third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right  
hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I**

**believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

Petition:

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

## **The Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always!  
**And also with you.**

## **Offering** *(please sit)*

*(Ushers take up the collection)*

*Speak and We Will Hear*

Joseph M. Martin & J.M. Stevens  
St. John's Choir

## **Offertory** *(please stand)*

*(Ushers bring collection forward for acolytes to receive)*

ELW #207; Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thankful hearts and voices raise;  
tell ev'ryone what God has done.  
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice  
and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your promises  
and lead your people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

## **Offertory Prayer**

Merciful God,  
**accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.**

**Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

### Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to the Table

*(Acolytes prepare for communion distribution; ushers come forward to invite assembly by pew. Greeters will guide those wishing to receive at the altar: stop at credence table for a cup, then walk up side steps into the chancel)*

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

## Lamb of God



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; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn

ELW #362; *At the Lamb's High Feast* vs. 1, 2, 4, 6-8

- 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
praise to our victorious king,  
who has washed us in the tide  
flowing from his wounded side. Alleluia!
- 2 Praise we Christ, whose love divine  
gives his sacred blood for wine,  
gives his body for the feast—

Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

- 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,  
paschal victim, paschal bread;  
with sincerity and love  
eat we manna from above. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall,  
now no more the grave enthrall;  
you have opened paradise,  
and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy,  
this alone can sin destroy!  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

### **Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer** *(please stand)*

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

Let us pray. 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.**

### **Benediction**

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.**

## **Sending Hymn**

*(Acolytes extinguish the candles)*

ELW #774; *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

1     What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
      leaning on the everlasting arms;  
      what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
      leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain*

Leaning, leaning, *(Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)*  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, *(leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)*  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2     Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
      leaning on the everlasting arms;  
      oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
      leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

## **Sending**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**

Linda Ranney

## **Altar Flowers**

In Memory of our Granddaughter, Bethany Kirk, by Phyllis & Charles Kirk

## **Chancel Flowers**

In Honor of Earth Day

## Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pr. Christine Emerson
Assistant	Cora Klawiter
Lector	Kathy Freitag
Acolytes	Lauren Leonardson, Katherine Birtzer
Ushers	Jeff Putnam, Larry Schaefer
Greeters	Mike Torud, Larry Krause
Communion Servers	Natasha Dahlstrom, Mark Sontag, Cheryl Mattison, Diana Hogenson
Media & Streaming	Scott Olsen
Screen Operator	Brett Issacson
Musicians	Linda Ranney, piano/organ; Mark Lundin, Director of Music, St. John's Choir; JuBellation Handbell Choir

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