

**Sunday, April 26, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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.

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.  
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 883 All People That on Earth Do Dwell vs 1 & 2

## **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.**

**KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE - Bonnie Drewes, page 4**

## **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 Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **KIDS SERMON**

**First Reading: 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 poured out on God's people. The new*

*community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' instructions and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostles. Those who believed lived together, shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, sharing the proceeds with one another as each had need. They met in the Temple and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day by day, God added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of God for the people of God,  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / ABC

Ps. 23

Michel Guimont



The Lord is my shep-herd; noth - ing shall I want.

LORD, you are my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where you give me repose.  
Near restful waters you lead me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. R.

You guide me along the right path;  
You are true to your name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your  
staff;

with these you give me comfort. R.

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. R.

Surely goodness and kindness shall  
follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. R.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

For grace is given if you endure unjust punishment for your conscience in the name of God. What credit is there if you patiently endure harsh punishment as a result of your sin? But if you put up with suffering for doing what is right, this is acceptable in God's eyes. It was for this that you were called, since Christ suffered for you in just this way and left you an example. You must follow in the footsteps of Christ, who did no wrong, who spoke no deceit, who did not return insults when insulted, who, when made to suffer, did not counter with threats.

Instead, Christ trusted the One who judges justly. It was Christ's own body that brought our sins to the cross, so that all of us, dead to sin, could live in accord with God's will. By Christ's wounds you are healed. At one time you were straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

The word of God for the people of God,

**Thanks be to God.**

*I invite you to stand in body or spirit for the Gospel Acclamation:*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Bonnie Drewes, page 5**

## **GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] "The truth of the matter is, whoever doesn't enter the sheepfold through the gate but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep, the one for whom the keeper opens the gate. The sheep know the shepherd's voice; the shepherd calls them by name and leads them out. Having led them all out of the fold, the shepherd walks in front of them and they follow because they recognize the shepherd's voice. They simply won't follow strangers—they'll flee from them because they don't recognize the voice of strangers."

Even though Jesus used this metaphor with them, they didn't grasp what he was trying to tell them. He therefore said to them again: "The truth of the matter is, I am the sheep gate. All who came before me were thieves and marauders whom the sheep didn't heed. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be safe— you'll go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy. I came that you might have life and have it to the full."

The Gospel of the Lord,  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ACS 954 You, Lord, are Both Lamb and Shepherd vs. 1 & 2

We will now take a moment of reflection, to listen to the spirit. This is also a time to prepare our hearts for the offering. We all have so much to share: time, talent, tithe. In the bulletins, there is a piece called Joyful Giving to share what you will give the community this week. Those slips can be placed in the offering basket.

## **TIME OF REFLECTION**

**OFFERING** Offertory, Bonnie Drewes, page 7

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We also ask that you be with those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts, especially (PRAYER LIST)... Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING** (Sung, Bonnie Drewes, page 8)

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.**

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus. The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him. They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ. And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them" (*Matthew 28:9*).

Jesus met the women in their seeking.

Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief.

Jesus met them when they felt lost.

Jesus met them and provided hope.

Friends, if like the women you are seeking Christ, if you have known grief or fear, if you have ever felt lost, or if you are in need of some hope, then come to this Table.

All are welcome here.

For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking, I am confident that Jesus meets us here, saying, "Do not be afraid."

Here at this table we remember that final meal, where Jesus gathered with his friends, followers and loved ones, even the one who was to betray him. And at that table he 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.

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.

Holy One, through this meal we remember the promise of Easter: death does not have the last word. So may we live like that is true. May we speak this hope to our neighbors. May we look for you in our midst. May we see you at this Table, in this ordinary bread and cup. And may we always remember: alleluias came after the grave. Amen

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As we live like Easter people, let us continue to pray the words Jesus taught us to pray, in the language or version of our hearts:

**Heavenly God, giver of life, holy is your name. Your realm 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 you reign in power and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Distribution**

**Communion Hymns**     ELW 484 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

### **Prayer after Communion**

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.**

### **Blessing**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the embodiment of unfathomable love and grace,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
Amen.

**Sending Song**     **Bonnie Drewes, page 10-11**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**