



Sunday, April 26, 2026

10:00 a.m.



Pastor Erik Allen

“Called By Name”



# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

## Prelude

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Paul Grime

## Announcements

## Gathering Song

The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power

## Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 100)*

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!  
Serve the Lord with gladness and come with singing.

**C: Know that the Lord is God, our maker—  
We are God’s people, the sheep of God’s pasture.**

P: Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving  
And the courts with songs of praise.

**C: Give thanks and bless God’s holy name—  
For we are welcomed into God’s presence with joy.**

P: For the Lord is good, and steadfast love endures forever;  
God’s faithfulness continues from age to age.

**C: In this season of resurrection hope, we gather—  
Come, let us worship with gratefulness and praise.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C: And also with you!**

*(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)*

## Song

Be Ye Glad

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God, who chose us in Christ. Let us come to the fountain of mercy.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Almighty God,

**C: In raising Jesus from the tomb, you destroyed the power of sin and death. Hear us as we confess our failure to live the good news of the resurrection. Grant us the radiant power of your grace. Forgive us, heal us, and renew us, so that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

P: In great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In obedience to our Lord's command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

*please be seated*

**Lesson** Acts 2:42-47

**Gospel** John 10:1-10

### **Gospel Response**

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Message**

Pastor Erik

### **Sermon**

"Called By Name"

Pastor Erik

### **Hymn**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW 789

### **The Nicene Creed**

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*please be seated*

## The Offering

If you would like, you may give online by scanning the QR code or Offering Plates are located at the back of the Sanctuary.



## Offertory Response

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

ELW 484

(vs 1 & 5)

## Offertory Prayer

**P:** 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.

**C:** **Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church** (*the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.*)

Members: Sylvia, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Kathy, Jessie, Adelyn, Kipp, Dale, Melanie,  
Charles, Chuck, Bill, Marie, Mary, Carol, Bob

## Communion

## Words of Institution

## The Lord's Prayer

**C:** **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 Communion**

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

*please be seated.*

## **Distribution**

*All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.*

## **Benediction**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

## **Song**

My Lighthouse

## **Sending**

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

T. Smith & D. Husted

*(Special thanks to Joan and Pam for their postlude today!)*

## Vacation Bible School

We are having conversations about Vacation Bible School this summer, and your input will help shape what we offer. We're so grateful for the ways your families connect with us throughout the year, and we want to make VBS as accessible and life-giving as possible for everyone. Would you take a moment to share your preferences for this summer? In particular, we're wondering:

**Week Preference:** June 15-18, June 22-25, July 13-16, July 20-23

**Daytime or Evening?**

**How many days feel manageable:** 3 days, 4 days, a weekend format

**Would you or another family member be interested in volunteering by:**

- 1) Planning/preparing in advance;
- 2) Help lead;
- 3) Help with the children
- 4) Provide food;
- 5) Serve food;
- 6) Cleanup and setup for next day

Please talk to Pastor Erik or email him at [erik.allen@kogcarmel.org](mailto:erik.allen@kogcarmel.org)

## Work Day - Indoor/Outdoor Saturday May 2

There is much to do in our church yard and some projects for folks who prefer indoor activities. Plan to join us from 9-12 next Saturday. Specifics are available via Flocknote. Don't have Flocknote? Email me ... [leslie.french@kogcarmel.org](mailto:leslie.french@kogcarmel.org)

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## Weekly Activities

- SUNDAY, April 26

- 9:00 am Christian Ed
- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:00 am Guitar Class
- 11:00 am Friendship Meeting
- 12:00 pm Lion Dance Rehearsal
- 2:00 pm Chinese Orchestra
- 4:00 pm Girl Scouts
- 5:00 pm Bells
- 5:00 pm Catechism/Youth

- MONDAY, April 27

- 10:00 am Craft Group

- TUESDAY, April 28

- 6:00 pm Finance Meeting
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

- WEDNESDAY, April 29

- 8:30 am Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 am WOW
- 3:00 pm Women's Prayer Group
- 6:00 pm Friendship Bible Study
- 7:30 pm Choir Practice

- THURSDAY, April 30

- 6:15 pm Girl Scouts

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

### Theme of the Week: Christ Is Risen, Our Shepherd

Good Shepherd Sunday invites us to dwell deeply in the promise that the risen Christ is our Shepherd—one who knows us, calls us, and gathers us into one flock. Jesus lays down his life for the sheep, not as a distant act, but as a living gift that continues to shape our lives. As the Good Shepherd, Christ is the guardian, seeking us when we wander and carrying us when we cannot walk on our own. Through the waters of baptism, we are claimed and marked as Christ's own forever, brought into the fold of God's people. Through Word and Sacrament, the Shepherd continues to lead us—through valleys of fear and uncertainty—into the promise of abundant life. At the table, beside still waters and green pastures, Christ feeds us with grace upon grace, nourishing us for the sake of the world. Gathered, forgiven, and sustained, we are sent out to love and serve our neighbors in Christ's name.

#### **SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: John 10:11–16 The Good Shepherd**

The Good Shepherd's concern is for the sheep—for each one, known and named. Jesus reveals himself as this Shepherd not only in word but in action. He lays down His life for the flock and, in rising again, continues to shepherd a people who belong to Him. Unlike hired hands who scatter in fear, Christ remains faithful, even in the face of death. His voice calls to us still—heard in the proclamation of the gospel, in the waters of baptism where we are joined to His death and resurrection, and in the bread and wine where He gives Himself for us. Through these means of grace, Christ gathers us into one body, breaking down every barrier that would divide us. We belong to this Shepherd not because of our own doing, but because He has claimed us in love. *Lord, open our ears to hear your voice and our hearts to follow where you lead. Amen.*

#### **MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 70 “Make haste, O God, to deliver me”**

Psalm 70 is a cry for help—a prayer that rises from deep need and trust. As people of faith, we join this prayer, knowing our dependence upon God in all things. We bring before God all that threatens life: fear, injustice, sin, and despair. In baptism, we have already been named as those who belong to God, yet we continue to cry out, trusting that God hears us. In Christ, God has drawn near—not remaining distant from our suffering, but entering fully into it. At the table, we are reminded again and again that God remembers us, meets us, and restores us. Even in our need, we are held in God's promise. *Lord, in our need, draw near to us again and fill us with your saving presence. Amen.*

#### **TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:21–25 Christ Bears Our Brokenness**

The Good Shepherd does not lead us around suffering, but through it, into new life. Peter's story reminds us that failure is not the end of our story. Though he denied Jesus, he was not abandoned. The Shepherd sought him out, restored him, and called him again. In the same way, Christ meets us in our brokenness. On the cross, Jesus bears the weight of sin and suffering, taking into himself all that separates us from God and one another. In baptism, we are joined to this death and raised into new life, called to

live in righteousness—not as perfection, but as a life shaped by grace. Again and again, the Shepherd calls us back, forgives us, and sets us on the path of life. *Lord, when we wander, seek us, restore us, and lead us in your way. Amen.*

**WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 34:11–16 God’s Saving Work**

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God speaks a word of both judgment and promise. When leaders fail to care for the people, God does not abandon the flock. Instead, God promises to act—to seek the lost, bring back the strayed, bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak. In Jesus Christ, this promise takes on flesh. God comes among us, not in power that dominates, but in love that suffers and restores. With hands stretched out on the cross, Christ gathers all who are scattered. In baptism, we are brought into this gathering. At the table, we are fed as one people. The Shepherd continues this work today, drawing us together into a community of care, healing, and hope. *Lord, gather us in your mercy and make us instruments of your care for others. Amen.*

**THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: John 5:22–30 Life Through the Son**

The Father entrusts judgment to the Son, and in Christ, judgment is revealed as mercy and life. Jesus speaks a word that brings the dead to life—a word we hear in the gospel proclaimed, a word spoken over us in baptism, a word given in bread and wine. In these gifts, we are joined to Christ’s death and resurrection, brought from death into life. We are named as God’s beloved, not because of what we have done, but because of what Christ has done and continues to do. His voice calls us still, shaping us into a people who live not in fear, but in trust. *Lord, keep us attentive to your life-giving voice and grounded in your grace. Amen.*

**FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:20–21 Preserved in Faith**

This blessing from Hebrews reminds us that the God who raised Jesus from the dead is still at work among us. Through the “blood of the eternal covenant,” God establishes a promise that cannot be broken. Everyday God continues to form and sustain us, equipping us for lives of faith and service. We are not left to our own strength. Instead, we are shaped by grace, nourished by Christ’s presence, and sent into the world as signs of God’s love. The Shepherd who calls us also sustains us, leading us each day into lives that reflect God’s goodness. *Lord, strengthen us in faith and send us out to do your will with courage and love. Amen.*

**SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23 My Cup Overflows**

Psalm 23 gives voice to the deep trust we have in God’s care. The Lord is our Shepherd, providing for all that we need—body, mind, and spirit. In baptism, we are brought beside still waters and named as God’s own. In the journey of life, Christ walks with us through every valley, promising never to leave us. At the altar, our cup overflows as we receive the gift of Christ’s presence in bread and wine—grace poured out for us and for the life of the world. In every season, we are held in the promise that goodness and mercy will follow us, and that we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. *Lord, sustain us with your presence and fill our lives with your abundant grace. Amen.*