

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Easter Light–Guiding Light

April 26, 2026

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN 711 SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.
- 2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.
- 3 You have promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.
- 4 Early let us seek Your favor,
Early let us do Your will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
With Your love our spirits fill.

Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76 Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944 Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.
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Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt. Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 16:1–2, 5–6, 9, 11*

Pastor Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.
People I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You.”
Pastor The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.
People The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
Pastor Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.
People You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 85:1–2, 7*

Pastor LORD, You were favorable to Your land;
People You restored the fortunes of Jacob.
Pastor You forgave the iniquity of Your people;
People You covered all their sin.
Pastor Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,
People and grant us Your salvation.
Pastor Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.
People Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, mighty Judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have not lived up to our calling as Your peaceable people. We have not extended ourselves to bring Your peace in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We have not done the good You demand and have not been the people You would have us be. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on us, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Forgive us all that needs Your forgiving grace and with the power of the Holy Spirit

Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86 Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918 Text and tune: Public domain

AS WE DEPART

One of the longest lasting of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World was the Pharos Lighthouse that was constructed at the entry of the harbor of Alexandria, Egypt, in the third century BC. Although weakened by a series of earthquakes, it remained standing in part until AD 1480. Initially, its source of light was the brightness of the sun reflected in a great mirror by day and the flames of a great wood fire reflected by the same mirror at night. The gradual disintegration of the tower, initially some 330 feet in height, finally extinguished its light. As He spoke with His disciples, Jesus described Himself as the light that never will be extinguished. John reports: "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'" (John 8:12). On our journey through this dark world, we are blessed to have the light of Christ as our unfailing guide. It truly is the light no darkness can overcome.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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direct us to serve You faithfully all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor God has promised His merciful forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in confession. He will revive them and speak peace to His people. In His stead and by His command, therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Pastor God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of peace and joy, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People **Amen.**

+ WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 95:1–3, 6–7a; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b*

Pastor I am the good shepherd.

I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

People **Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Pastor Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

People **For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

Pastor Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

People **For He is our God,
and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor I am the good shepherd.

I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

KYRIE HAVE MERCY ON YOUR PEOPLE, LORD (sung)

1 Have mercy on Your people, Lord.
Have mercy, Christ, our King.
Renew us by Your mercy, Lord;
Accept the prayers we bring.

Text: Dorothy Hoyer Scharlemann, 1912–2002 Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727 Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110000255 Tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Let us pray. 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.

People Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 2:42-47* (The life of the first Christians includes learning and fellowship.)

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Peter 2:19-25* (Christ, who suffered for us, sets an example for us.)

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For 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. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in

Your love in a world that often feels heavy with burdens. Let our lives be a testament to Your faithfulness and grace. As we depart, may we carry Your light into the darkness, shining brightly for all to see. We pray this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor 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.

People Amen.

SENDING HYMN 770 WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Pastor We pray for those whose tables are set in difficult or challenging places, whose lives know want or discord or sadness or continuing illness. Gently guide them with Your rod and staff, Good Shepherd, and keep them ever with You. Caring Shepherd,

People hear our prayer.

Pastor With gratefulness we remember those who already dwell in the eternal house of the Lord forever. Inspired us to pass throughout our earthly journeys with faith and with hope as we heed the voice of our Good Shepherd and follow in His ways. Eternal Shepherd,

People hear our prayer. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY 781 WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN sts. 1, 6

1 We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

6 And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89 Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL PRAYER

Pastor Loving Father, We thank You for this time of worship and reflection. As we prepare to leave this space, we ask for Your peace to fill our hearts. May the hope of Christ dwell within us, encouraging us in times of trial and inspiring us to spread joy wherever we go. Help us to be bearers of

return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 10:1-10* (Jesus says He is the gate of the sheep.)

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

People Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “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. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE BOX

HYMN OF THE DAY 709 THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before 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. Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON 1 Peter 2:19-25 “When He was insulted”

RESPONSE HYMN 488 HE IS ARISEN! GLORIOUS WORD

1 He is arisen! Glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
The gates of heav'n are open.
My Jesus did triumphant die,
And Satan's arrows broken lie,
Destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
O hear what cheer!
Christ victorious,
Rising glorious,
Life is giving.
He was dead but now is living!

Text: Birgitte Katerine Boye, 1742–1824; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt. Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

CREEDAL HYMN IN GOD WE BELIEVE

1 In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.

2 In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross He endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.

3 God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess;
With power and truth the Church now He does bless.
As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, our blessed Shepherd, and for all people according to their needs:
We pray for the whole church, that through it, the goodness of God be shared and the Good News of salvation joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world. Gracious Shepherd,

People hear our prayer.

Pastor We pray for those who are in need, assured of the Shepherd's care for all His sheep. Give us hearts to seek to meet the needs of those who travel with us through life as we are led by our Good Shepherd, day by day. Merciful Shepherd,

People hear our prayer.

Pastor We pray for the nations of the world, asking that still waters of peace flow around the globe and that there be goodness and kindness among all peoples. Loving Shepherd,

People hear our prayer.

Pastor We pray for our families and everyone in them. Grant that together we follow the Good Shepherd as one flock in which all dwell in love and unity. Gentle Shepherd,

People hear our prayer.