

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS-
(8:00) Special Music
(10:30) Special Music

Flute/Keyboard Duet
Peace Adult Choir

The Fourth Sunday of Easter April 26, 2026

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER (10:30)

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:00) (Please see below to prepare.)

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PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because Holy Communion is an expression of our oneness in faith, we request that each person desiring to commune with us examine him/herself on the basis of these points of faith:

I believe that:

- + I am a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.
- + Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.
- + Jesus Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and
- + The bread and wine I receive are also the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- + All my sins are forgiven through this Sacrament.
- + As God enables me, I pledge to thank, praise, serve and obey Him.

Those who hold in common these teachings are invited to join us at the Lord's Supper. If you are visiting us for the first time, or have questions or reservations about these points of faith, we invite you to speak with the Pastor before the service.

The lighter colored wine is non-alcoholic for those with special needs. Gluten-free wafers are also available on the small table as you approach the railing.

Hymns during Distribution — Please join in singing:

- "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" #770
- Special Music
- "Today Your Mercy Calls Me" #915

Thank the Lord p164

Post-Communion Collect p166

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN — "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" #711

THE POSTLUDE

✘ ✘ ✘

WELCOME! Flock of sheep who know the voice of Jesus the Shepherd. Let us follow Him together. May our worship be a glimpse of how it will be when we "dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:6, NIV)

✘ ✘ ✘

THE PRESERVICE MUSIC AND PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL AND PASTORAL GREETING

THE OPENING HYMN — "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" #709

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (taken from D.S. I—p 151)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✘ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** 1 John 1:8-9

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✘ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE KYRIE p 152

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE — “This Is the Feast”

p155

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING – Acts 2:42-47 ESV

Pew Bibles p1085

In our first reading we see the disciples going out and preaching the Good News and shepherding the people.

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

LECTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23-

P: The Lord is my shepherd.

C: I shall not want.

P: He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C: He leads me beside still waters.

P: He restores my soul.

C: He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

C: Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me,

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

P: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

All: 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.

THE EPISTLE READING — 1 Peter 2:19-25, ESV Pew Bibles, p 1204

In the second reading, St. Peter instructs us that Jesus Christ, the Shepherd of our souls, took our sins on Himself, so that we can live a life of righteousness.

[St. Peter wrote:] This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 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. 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. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 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. 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. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA

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♪ **Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?**

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING — John 10:1-11, ESV Pew Bibles, p 1065

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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

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

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES CREED

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THE SERMON HYMN –

(8:00) “I Am Jesus Little Lamb”

#740

(10:30) “I Am Jesus Little Lamb” v. 1 children, vs. 2-3 congregation

#740

THE MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE –

“Jesus Loves Me”

#588

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS