

4th Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Opening Hymn #783 WS

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

1. Jesus, shepherd of the sheep,
Who Your Father's flock does keep,
Safe we wake and safe we sleep,
Guarded still by You.
2. In Your promise firm we stand;
None can take us from Your hand.
Speak! We hear! At Your command,
We will follow You.
3. By Your blood our souls were bought;
By Your life salvation wrought;
By Your light our feet are taught,
Lord, to follow You.
4. Father, draw us to Your Son;
We with joy will follow on
Till the work of grace is done,
There to live with You.
5. We, in robes of glory dressed,
Join th' assembly of the blest,

Gathered to eternal rest
In the fold with You.

Invocation

P We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ **Amen.**

Confession & Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and
confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord

C ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners
confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean
and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and
deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy,
seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Je-
sus Christ.

P & C **O most merciful God, who has given Thine only-be-
gotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His
sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy
Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy
will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by
Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus
Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪ **Amen.**

Gloria Patri

C ♪ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The Kyrie

C ♪ **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Gloria in Excelsis – (Hymn #238 v.1)

All glory be to God alone,
Forevermore the Highest One,
Who doth our sinful race befriend,
And grace and peace to us extend.
Among mankind may His good will
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

The Salutation

P The Lord be with you

C ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

The Collect for the Day

P Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪ **Amen**

The First Lesson – Acts 2:42-47

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.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 23

Antiphon – The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

¹The Lord is my | shepherd;*

I | shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green | pastures.*

He leads me beside still | waters.

³He re- | stores my soul.*

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are | with me;*

your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my | enemies;*

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup | overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days | of my life,*

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for- | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit,

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen

Antiphon – The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Second Lesson – 1 Peter 2:19-25

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 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.

Verse of the Day – Romans 6:9; John 10:14

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.

The Gospel – John 10:1-10

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.”

Confession of Faith - *Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints The forgiveness of sins;

**The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Hymn of the Day #431

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,
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh! the transport of delight
With which my cup o'erfloweth.

6. And so through all the length of days

Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Sermon Text – Acts 2:42-47

Sermon

The Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ Is Our Good Shepherd

Offertory

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Shepherd of Israel, You have clothed us with Christ's righteousness and taught us to love all that is good, beautiful and true. Bless all artists and artisans, composers and musicians, and craftsmen and writers, that they may employ all their skills for Your glory and, in service to the Gospel, testify to Your saving death and resurrection.

**1. Christ, our human likeness sharing,
Heaven's love on earth portrayed; ...**

P: Loving Father, Your Son is the great Shepherd of the sheep, who faithfully gathers His flock to Himself in the pastures of the Church. Grant us steadfast faith to hear His

voice and follow Him, even through the valley of the shadow of death, that we may receive our portion in His abundant life.

**Christ the Shepherd, tending, caring,
In His death our ransom paid: ...**

P: Merciful Shepherd, Your wounds are our healing and Your voice our certainty. Hear us on behalf of those who suffer in body or mind, who grieve, or to whom death draws near. [*We pray especially for _____ and those we name in our hearts.*] Grant them healing according to Your will, grace to sustain them in trouble and the sure hope of everlasting life. Abide also with the unemployed and the distraught. Return them to health and livelihood.

**Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant,
Be Your life in us displayed.**

P: Heavenly Father, in the wake of Your Son's resurrection, Your people devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Unite Your people in the one true faith, that our holy lives may glorify you and help one another.

3. Christ, in ev'ry congregation

Build Your temple, stone by stone, ...

P: Holy Father, by the work of Your Spirit through the Means of Grace, You daily add to the number of believers. Grant Your people courageous hearts and bold tongues to proclaim Your truth, trusting that You will gather more in keeping with Your gracious will.

With Your word as firm foundation

For a faith matured and grown: ...

P: Almighty God, You hold in Your hands all the might of man, and You hold accountable those who would govern Your

people. Grant to us good government and leaders who will honor Your purpose, protect Your people, serve the cause of justice and defend our liberty.

**Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant,
Make in us Your Gospel known.**

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again, even ****please stand**** our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C ♪ **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Closing Hymn #457 ***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?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Silent Prayer

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