

Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



WELCOME TO WORSHIP Fourth Sunday of Easter April 26, 2026 9:15 AM Worship Express

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz **Liturgist:** Jenny Hoffman
Lector: Ella Pavolonis **Acolyte:** Ella Pavolonis
Ushers: Austin Gallagher
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Evening and Morning" Ebeling/Schwarz

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: 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.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: 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.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: 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.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Stand

SONG: "Have No Fear Little Flock" #764 ELW Vss. 1-3

**Vs. 1: Have no fear little flock; have no fear little flock,
for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom;
have no fear little flock.**

**Vs. 2: Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer little flock,
for the Father will keep you in his love forever;
have good cheer little flock.**

**Vs. 3: Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you, up lift and restore you;
praise the Lord high above.**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

LITANY

P: The word is near you,

C: **on your lips and in your heart.**

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: **and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: **and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

SONG OF PRAISE: “Oh, How I Love Jesus” Vss. 1 & 2 PD

**Vs. 1: There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest name on earth.**

**Refrain: Oh, how I love Jesus (3 times)
Because He first loved me.**

**Vs. 2: It tells me of a Savior’s love,
Who died to set me free;
It tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner’s perfect plea. Refrain...**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **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. Amen.**

GOSPEL SONG: “He Is Lord”

**He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead, and He is Lord!
Ev’ry knee shall bow, ev’ry tongue confess**

That Jesus Christ is Lord.

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Good News according to John the 10th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

Jesus (Narrator):¹⁻⁵ “Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he’s up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won’t follow a stranger’s voice but will scatter because they aren’t used to the sound of it.”

Congregation: Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again.

Jesus (Narrator): “I’ll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep rustlers, every one of them. But the sheep didn’t listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN’S WORD/ HYMN SING

Stand

APOSTLE’S CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: 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

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING SONG: "Lord, be Glorified" #744 ELW Vss. 1-3

**Vs 1: In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be gloried today.**

**Vs. 2: In my song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In my song, Lord, be glorified today.**

**Vs. 3: In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.**

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

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.

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE “How Great Thou Art” Hine/Hansen