

Fourth Sunday of Easter: Good Shepherd Sunday
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two Eucharistic Prayer A
Sunday, April 26, 2026, 11 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Hymn

“Good Christians Rejoice”

Hymnal #205

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1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the
*2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:
5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Opening Acclamation (BCP p. 355)

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Collect for Purity (BCP p. 355)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Song of Praise S-280 Glory to God

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a-lone are the Lord, 7. you a-lone are the Most
 High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the
 glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day (BCP p. 225)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

First Reading:

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:42-47).

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want. (*Ps. 23:1*)

1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
 I shall not be in want.

- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.**
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

Second Reading:

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (2:19-25).

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

"Shepherd of Souls"

Hymnal #343

(This hymn is in the public domain).

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Shepherd of Souls". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: "1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen; 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy; 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not; 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy".

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
 word of grace, in strength of which we
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (10:1-10).

(Glory to you, Lord Christ).

[Jesus said,] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Betsy Sentigar

The Nicene Creed (BCP p. 358)

**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 was made man.
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.

The Prayers of the People (*from Hear Our Prayer p. 56*).

Hear us Lord as we lift our voices in common cause saying, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church universal, that the circumstances of this world will lead us into new ways of being the good dream of God; a body of people who love and serve God and neighbor. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the poor, the hungry and the marginalized and for those whose life's work is to help them with basic needs and the ability to thrive. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our unique situations and needs. For health, for the safety and happiness of our families, for our coworkers, friends, neighbors. We pray especially for those things that bring us

fear or anxiety, asking that we might shed our concerns and be at peace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer sickness or disability, that they might know healing and wholeness. Especially we pray for Brenda, Hildegard, Brandon, Zach, Dawn, Bobby, Janice, Jason, Kelly, Kaitlyn, Denise, Bruce, Kristina, Debbie, Berry, Jake, Janice, Kathy, Susan, Tim, Martha, Cindy, Helen, Ronald, Sharon, Gene, Tom, Sally, Rod, Renee, Ernie, Lara, Debbie, Richard, Shirley, and Julia. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift up the prayers from our prayer wall...for what else shall we pray? Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray in thanksgiving for this life and, in faith, for the life to come. Bless the dying with your grace and welcome. We remember especially Ruth, Helen, and Audrey. Grant us also the hope of heavenly reunion in the age to come. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Concluding Collect:

Celebrant: God of love; you know our needs greater than we know them ourselves; hear us and answer us as you have always done and clothe us in your loving grace that we might fully be your Son's continuing work in the world; and all this through Christ. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and always. **Amen.**

(During the Great 40 Days of Easter the confession and absolution are omitted from this part of the service.)

The Peace (BCP p. 360)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence (BCP p. 376)

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.
Psalm 50:14

Offertory Hymn

"Alleluia, Alleluia Give Thanks"

Hymnal #178

The musical notation is presented on two staves. The top staff is labeled "Descant" and features a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a common time signature. It begins with a whole rest, followed by a repeat sign and a sequence of notes: a half note G#4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note B4, and a half note A4. The bottom staff is labeled "Refrain" and also uses a treble clef, three sharps, and common time. It starts with a quarter note G#4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G#4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, a quarter note B3, and a quarter note A3. The lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the" are written below the notes.

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give

Praise to his Name. Name.
 Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
 4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -
 Now we shall live for ev - er.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

The descant may be sung after stanzas 3 and 4.

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166 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Psalm 150:6

Unison

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures

here below. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise

Him above, ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and

Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

TEXT: Thomas Ken, adapted
 MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623, arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams
 A lower setting may be found at No. 63

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 L.M. with Alleluias

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda (BCP p. 361)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface (BCP p. 361)

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-129

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Words of Institution (BCP p. 362)

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer (BCP p. 364)

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem S-154

“Christ our Passover”

This setting is not used in Lent.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Invitation (BCP p. 364)

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Distribution (BCP p. 365)

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

Post-Communion Prayer (BCP p. 365)

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Easter Blessing (*Book of Occasional Services p. 26*).

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good

work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

“Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us”

Hymnal #708

(This hymn is in the public domain).

1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us
ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;
learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,
for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!
with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

Dismissal (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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