

**April 26, 2026 8:00am**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**WELCOME AND INVOCATION**

**OPENING HYMN**

**“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”**

**LSB 711**

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.

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.

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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.

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.

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

We all, like sheep, have gone astray;  
**each of us has turned to his own way.** (*Isaiah 53:6*)

But the Lord has laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross  
**so we might die to sin and live for righteousness.** (*1 Peter 2:24*)

“I am the Good Shepherd,” says the Lord.

**The Good Shepherd lays down his life for His sheep.** (*John 10:11*)

In repentant faith, we come before our Lord in confession.

Almighty God,

**we confess to You that we are sinful by nature. We have sinned by our selfish thoughts, our hurtful words and our unloving actions. We have been like sheep who have gone astray. We have sought refreshment outside of the living waters. We have followed our own paths, not the paths of righteousness. For the sake of Jesus, make us clean. Forgive us our sins. Give us eternal life. Amen.**

Hear the Good News: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (*Psalms 23:6*). The Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, became the Lamb of God, shedding His blood on Calvary’s altar for your forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of the Good Shepherd, I forgive you all our sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

## **“The Lamb”**

**LSB 547, vv. 3-5**

The Lamb, the Lamb,  
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill  
So still, His will  
On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

### **Refrain**

Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

He sighs, He dies,  
He takes my sin and wretchedness.  
He lives, forgives,  
He gives me His own righteousness. **Refrain**

He rose, He rose,  
My heart with thanks now overflows.  
His song prolong  
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain**

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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.  
**Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

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

He leads me beside the still waters.

**He restores my soul.**

He leads me in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.

**Even 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.

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

You anoint my head with oil;

**my cup overflows.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

**and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**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.**

## EPISTLE LESSON

1 Peter 1:19-25

But with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA

**"Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"**

**LSB 466, vv. 1, 5**

Christ has arisen, alleluia.

Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.

For our Redeemer burst from the tomb,

Even from death, dispelling its gloom. **Refrain**

## Refrain

Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;

Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia!

Jesus is living, alleluia!

Christ has arisen; He sets us free;

Alleluia, to Him praises be.

Jesus is living! Let us all sing;

He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. **Refrain**

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## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 10:1-10**

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

**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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**Justin Weber**

Director of Christian Education

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”**

**LSB 709**

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

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

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

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.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever!

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## **SERMON**

### **“Heart of a Shepherd”**

**Pastor Snow**

## **RESPONSE HYMN**

### **“I am Jesus’ Little Lamb”**

**LSB 740**

I am Jesus’ little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me ev’ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?  
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

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## **OFFERING**

### **APOSTLES’ 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 Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Let us come before the Lamb and His throne and bring to Him the prayers of all His people.

Shepherd of love, You have delivered us from our sins and from the power of death and made us Your people forever. Give to us Your Spirit that we know the fullness of Your goodness now until we know Your joy forever in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Deliver us from all our enemies, keep us safe amid the dangers and terrors of this mortal life, and bring us to everlasting life through Christ, our Good Shepherd. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Give wisdom to those who lead us in this land, peace to the nations, courage to pursue justice for all people, and protection for those who protect and defend us. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Wipe every tear from Your people, and give to the sick and those who suffer in mind or in body healing, comfort, strength, and patience according to Your gracious will... Give peace to the dying, and comfort the grieving in their sorrow and loss. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God, forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

May 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; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

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!

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!

## **“Have No Fear, Little Flock”**

**LSB 735**

Praise the Lord high above;  
Praise the Lord high above,  
For He stoops down to heal you,  
Uplift and restore you;  
Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God;  
Thankful hearts raise to God,  
For He stays close beside you,  
In all things works with you;  
Thankful hearts raise to God!

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## **SENDING**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH ST. JOHN’S TODAY!**  
If this is your first time at St. John’s, we invite you to fill out a  
**CONNECTCard** located at the Welcome Desk or by using the  
**QR code. We look forward to CONNECT-ing with you.**



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## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes: 8:00 Lexie Matzke  
 Elders: 8:00 Jeff Matzke  
 Usher Team: 8:00 Josh Kulzer  
 Welcome Team: 8:00 Gayle Degler, Gary Herber  
 Tech Crew: 8:00 Buesgens Family  
 Coffee Hour: 9:00 Kloos Family and Hennen Family

UPCOMING WEEK	
Sunday, April 26	Youth Night 6:00pm
Monday, April 27	Men's Bible Study 6:30am
	Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
	AA 7:00pm
Wednesday, April 29	Moms in the Word 9:30am
	Messengers of Praise Rehearsal 7:00pm
Thursday, April 30	Women's LifeLight Bible Study 9:30am
	Trail Life Troop Meeting 6:30pm
Friday, May 1	AA 6:30pm
Saturday, May 2	Christmas in May 6:00am
Sunday, May 3	Worship with Communion 8:00 & 9:30am
	Education Hour 9:30am
	Confirmation Service 11:00am

## In Thanksgiving

The birth of a daughter, Hannah Grace, to Brenda and Marcus Simpson.

## Prayers for Healing and Strength

Rick Ellingson  
 Jenna Anderson  
 Roger Forner  
 Mary Snorek  
 Angeline Rannow

Ruth Anderson  
 Elizabeth Wysocki  
 Emily Pagelkopf  
 Stephen Wetzell  
 Anne Dutcher

Tim Laubach  
 Brody Miller  
 Pastor Al Holthus

## Ongoing Prayers

Carol Affeldt  
John Barney  
Merlin Bentz  
Jack Boman  
Jimann Campbell  
Julie Carver  
Marguerite Craighead  
Sunnie Deis

Anita Doss  
Sid & Merna Fjelstad  
Dennis Gaarder  
Ruth Harms  
Eugene Henke  
Carol Jones  
Len Kallsen  
Tracy Koepsell

Gretchen Laubach  
Marilyn Lenzen  
Melinda Meuwissen  
Steve Pond  
Cliff Waller  
Lois Wenz  
Ruth Ziegler

## Celebrating Birthdays

4/26

Ryan Bergo  
Faith Vosika

4/27

Bailey Clemensen  
Loretta Folkerts  
Brigitta Groboski  
Kris Hanson  
Anna Peterson

4/28

Josh Eickhoff  
Abigail Moldenhauer  
Cathy Siedelman

4/29

Catherine Guth Gray

4/30

Lucia Angell  
Stone Scheidt

5/1

Randy Litfin  
Stella Medvedev  
Ethan Messenger  
Jessica Nelson  
Donna Olson  
Roxanne Pauling  
Katie Rolf

5/1

Liam Siegle  
Steven Vance  
Josh Wille

5/2

Jenna Anderson  
Richard Daniel  
Rog Forner  
Eugene Henke  
Sweetlin Richard  
Shawn Swanson

## Celebrating Anniversaries

4/26 Brad and Carol Willmsen

4/27 Joe and Kelsey Steinert

4/29 Scott and Madeline King-Ellison

4/30 Dan and Lynn Hennen

5/1 Dick and Bonnie Schaefer

5/2 Mark and Pam Asmus

5/2 Steven and Sandra Hakel

## Expectant Moms

Clara Crawley-Reid  
Christina Krueger  
Brittany Thormodson

**St. John's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

300 E. 4TH ST. Chaska, MN 55318  
952-448-2433  
[WWW.STJOHNSCHASKA.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNSCHASKA.ORG)