

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 25-26, 2026

***“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education”***



**Music of Preparation,  
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting**

**Our Ministry:** We are a people of God who are: ***“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education.”***

**Welcome!** The welcome mat is out for you! We are happy to have you here today as a partner in prayer, in song and in the hearing of God’s word. We hope that you will stay for coffee after worship, so that we may become friends and be strangers no longer.

**Devotions & Publications Available** are found in the main entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... **WORSHIP NOTES** .....

**Note About Attendance Cards...**Remember that the only way we may know you are worshipping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. ***Please list the name of each person in worship.*** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

**To Our Visitors...**Our school has a few nooks and crannies, so don’t be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available in the main entryway.

**For All Who Worship...**If you are arriving after the service has started, please allow our ushers to assist you with seating. We ask that you avoid entering during the confession, prayers, or Bible readings as these are quiet and meditative moments.

**For Parents with Small Children...**We love and want children in our services as a part of God’s family, to spend time with Jesus, and to learn how to worship. We want you and your children to experience our Lord’s love and to have a great opportunity to worship the Lord along with all who are gathered here to praise our Savior’s name.

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

*(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)*

**Notes for Worship:** As you prepare for worship this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for all aspects of the Christian Life (some of the prayers are also located on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

### **Before worship prayer**

*Almighty God, grant that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ, may be renewed by Your Holy Spirit to live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

### **We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!**

Opening Hymn: "With High Delight Let Us Unite"

LSB, hymn #483

With high delight Let us unite  
In songs of great jubilation.  
Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,  
Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.  
To set us free Forever, He  
Is ris'n and sends To all earth's ends  
Good news to save ev'ry nation.

True God, He first From death has burst  
Forth into life, all subduing.  
His enemy Doth vanquished lie;  
His death has been death's undoing.  
"And yours shall be Like victory  
O'er death and grave," Saith He, who gave  
His life for us, life renewing.

Let praises ring; Give thanks, and bring  
To Christ our Lord adoration.  
His honor speed By word and deed  
To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.  
So shall His love Give us above,  
From misery And death set free,  
All joy and full consolation.

### **INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*  
P: If we say 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: Dear Friends in Christ, let us humble our hearts before our Holy God and silently reflect upon our sins.  
*(Moment of silent reflection)*  
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. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*  
C: **Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### Gloria in Excelsis ~Glory to God in the Highest

Luke 2:14, John 1:29

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**C: (Sung) Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

**C: (Sung) 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**

*(Please be Seated)*

## THE READING OF THE WORD

**First Lesson:** Acts 2:42-47

*(The Early Church Gathers)*

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.

**Second Lesson:** 1 Peter 2:19-25

*(The Example of Jesus)*

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.

*Stand (as you are able)*

**Alleluia and Verse - Common**

*John 6:68*

**C: (Sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel Lesson:** John 10:1-10

*(Jesus Is The Gate Of The Sheep)*

[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."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **(Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Sermon Hymn: “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”**

*LSB, hymn #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!

**Sermon: “Following in Christ’s Steps”**

*1 Peter 2:19-25*

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

C: **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**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards**

**OFFERTORY - Create In Me**

*LSB, Divine Service 3, pg 192-193*

C: **(Sung) 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.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people  
according to their needs. . . . We pray for the whole church, that through it, the  
goodness of God be shared and the Good News of salvation joyfully be  
proclaimed throughout all the world. Good Shepherd, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for those who are in need, assured of the Shepherd’s care for all His  
sheep. Give us hearts to seek to meet the needs of those who travel with us  
through life as we are led by You day by day. Good Shepherd, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for the nations of the world, asking that still waters of peace flow around the globe and that there be goodness and kindness among all peoples. Good Shepherd, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for our families and everyone in them. Grant that together we follow You as one flock in which all dwell in love and unity. Good Shepherd, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for those whose tables are set in difficult or challenging places, whose lives know want or discord or sadness or continuing illness. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Epecially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). O Lord, gently guide them with Your rod and staff and keep them ever with You. Good Shepherd, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: With gratefulness we remember those who already dwell in the eternal house of the Lord forever. Inspired us to pass throughout our earthly journeys with faith and with hope as we heed the voice of our Good Shepherd and follow in His ways. Good Shepherd, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)*

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

**C: 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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**C: (Sung) Amen**

**Closing Hymn: “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”**

*LSB, hymn #685*

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father’s bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.  
We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

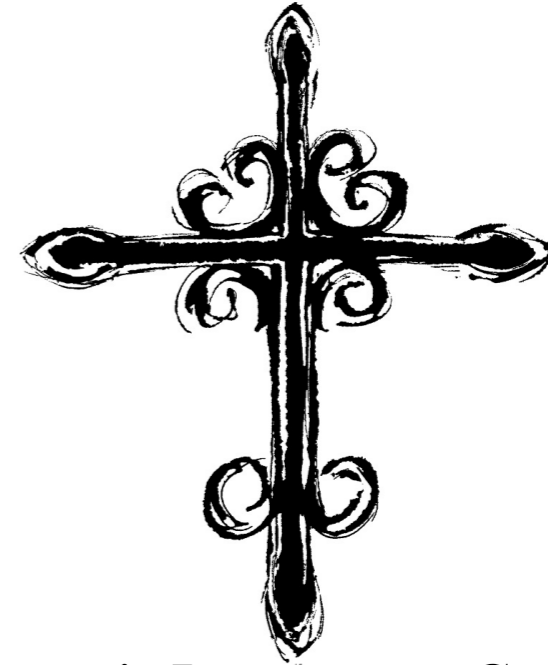
**See You In Worship Next Week!**

**After worship prayer**

*Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

*Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.*

**Altar Flowers:** Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of our husband and father John, on his birthday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, by Donna Hopkins and Nathan, Rachel, David and Jacob; also in honor of and with thanks to God on our 43<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary, by Mike & Debi Callan.



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

<b>Rev. Karl J. Koeppen</b> . . . . . Senior Pastor	<b>Rev. David Baker</b> . . . . . Missionary to Mongolia
<b>Rev. Roger A. Drinnon</b> . . . . . Associate Pastor	<b>Rev. Ross Engel</b> . . . . . Adopt-A-Chaplain
<b>Mr. Brian Porter</b> . . . . . Principal	<b>Church &amp; School Office:</b> . . . . . 932-0312
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