

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 26, 2026

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.

Weekly Update



1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170
www.HolyCrossHerndon.org

Sunday, April 26, 2026

VISITORS: It is a joy to have you with us this morning. If you are looking for a church family, we hope you will consider Holy Cross. For more information, you can fill out a visitor form in the narthex, speak to an usher, or scan the QR code to the right.



FAMILIES: Children are always welcome at our worship services! There's also a small play area in the Narthex where you can hear the broadcasted service.

WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

OUR CONGREGATION

*Juliana Roe Beck | Bonnie Burton | Terry & Linda Butler | Joy Caveney
Joel Flegal | Roy Geiger | Otto Jacobson | Reed Morgan | Mike Muller
Craig Reichow | Jeremy Shoop | Tuula Toney | Cherie Weatherhead*

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

*Riley Morgan | Thomas Newcomb | Collin Reichow
Friends of Thomas Newcomb currently serving in Iran*

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

*Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)
Jane Campbell (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Gianna Carter (granddaughter of Sam & Sharon Carter)
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)
Uwe Gutschmidt (nephew of Ellen Atwell)
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)
Michael Levrini (friend of Jared Lem)
Georgia Kirby and Cain Mason (friends of Cherie Weatherhead)
Phyllis Krapf (wife of Dick Krapf)
Don Kress (friend of Helen and Gary Wolfe)
Dale, John, and Jeff MacPherson (friends of Jared Lem)
Sue Mason (sister of Pam Darby)
Sharon Massen & Dorie Miller (friends of Craig Reichow)
Lisa Nolf and Laizu (friends of Jared Lem)
Jim Pollock (godfather of Andrew Barden)
Anne Marie Berardi Rabinowitz (friend of Tonya Elliott)
Tracy Radican (daughter of former HCLC pastor, Pastor Harper)
Dylan Roe (nephew of Mark & Jo Roe)
John Smith (brother-in-law of Cheryl Smith)
Nancy and Steven Swancutt (sister and brother of Lynn Russo)
Diana Todd (friend of the Russos)
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)*

THOSE IN MOURNING

Family and friends of Silas Kulkarni (Cousin of Tibbie Preston)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Supply Pastor: Rev. Pam Mitcham
Director of Music and Liturgy: Jeremy Shoop
Sound Technician: Bob Thompson
Video Technician: Sylvia Moran

Serving April 26th: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Assisting Minister: Joy Heuer
Reader: Nannette Lem
Acolyte: Anne Geiger
Greeter: Rob Coffman

Serving May 3rd: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Assisting Minister: TBD
Reader: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
Greeter: Cheryl Smith

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: APR 26 – MAY 3

SU 26	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Kingdom Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Fourth Sunday of Easter
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
TU 28	6:30 pm	Bldg. Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12
W 29	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	7:00 pm	ELL ~ Education Wing
TH 30	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
SA 2	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	11:00 am	Bldg. Use: Called2Be 7 th Day Adventist ~ FH
SU 3	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Kingdom Angels ~ Choir Stall
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm
	10:00 am	Worship – Fifth Sunday of Easter
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee ~ FH
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

JULY 4TH – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Over the past few years, our July 4 block party has grown into something truly special. What started as a simple gathering has become a vibrant evening of music, food, laughter, and community—culminating in one of the best views of the town fireworks right from our own property.

With that growth has come a wonderful opportunity... and a real need.

This event now takes more hands, more ideas, and more coordination than a small group can realistically carry on their own. To continue offering the kind of welcoming, joyful experience our community has come to expect, we're looking to form a **planning team** to help shape and support this year's celebration.

There are so many ways to be involved:

- Helping coordinate food and ice cream trucks
- Organizing lawn games and activities
- Assisting with setup and hospitality
- Supporting music and logistics
- Thinking creatively about how we welcome our neighbors

Whether you love planning, organizing, or just want to pitch in where needed, your presence makes a difference. If you've ever enjoyed this event—or thought, "This is such a great thing our church does"—this is your invitation to help bring it to life.

Please reach out (MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org) if you're willing to be part of the planning team. We'll gather soon to start shaping this year's celebration together.

HOME COMMUNION

If you or a loved one is unable to attend worship due to illness, age, or mobility issues, and would like to receive Communion, you can schedule a visit by contacting the office at Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org or 703-437-1883.

FINANCE REPORT – MARCH 2026

<u>March 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date – 2026</u>
<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Operating Fund</u>
Income: \$ 40,861.78	Income: \$ 106,750.29
Expenses: \$ 27,065.06	Expenses: \$ 85,309.80
Net Balance: +\$ 13,796.72	Net Balance: + \$ 13,796.72



Lunch for the Soul

Next HCLC Host Date: Wednesday, May 6th



Breakfast for lunch? Lunch for the Soul will be serving up breakfast at our next host day on Wednesday, May 6! Sign up to come early (9:30 am) to help prepare pancakes, sausage, and more. We'll also need regular items like water, fruit, and toppings. Join us for a fun time in the kitchen!



Sign up: perfectpotluck.com/YEEI1717

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Stay connected through prayer by receiving a weekly email with a current prayer list and updates on those in need. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Want to sign up to receive prayer emails? Scan the QR code to the right.



Want to submit a name to be prayed for? Email PrayerChain@HolyCrossHerndon.org with the person's name and a few sentences about why they need to be prayed for. Be aware that any information provided will be published in the emails going out to people praying.

NOTARY SERVICES



Marie (one of our Church Administrators) is available to provide notary services for members of the congregation. If you need a document notarized, please contact the office to make arrangements (Admin@HolyCrossHerndon.org or 703-437-1883). She is happy to assist!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Welcomes ALL!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children working to be a space committed to racial equality for God's people and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.



We welcome you, and you are safe with us...
 Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;
 Whatever your relationship status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;
 Whatever your socio-economic status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your age and life circumstance;
 Whatever your physical and mental ability.
 You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

What to Expect in Worship

Worship services can be intimidating for newcomers. While we try to make worship as accessible as possible for everyone, we know that some aspects can be confusing. Feel free to ask an usher or someone near you for help if you have any questions today. We are happy to help and want all voices to be included in praise to God.

Our worship style is traditional at Holy Cross. A full liturgy is used to focus our praise and prayers to God. Notes are included in the side gutter of the bulletin to explain why we use the various liturgical elements. Communion is celebrated every Sunday at Holy Cross. The table (altar) is not our table, but Christ's table. Just as Christ welcomes all, all are welcome to receive communion at Holy Cross. Pastor will give instructions on how we celebrate communion at that part of the service. Written instructions are also included at that point in the bulletin.

Throughout the year we emphasize each liturgical season differently to mark the passage of time. Liturgical texts change to reflect aspects of that season, some elements are removed or added to reflect the mood of that season, and colors used to decorate the chancel are changed to provide visual reminders of the current season.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Transforming the world & ourselves, together in community, fellowship, and faith.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Brought over from the second Sunday of Easter in the medieval one-year lectionary is the beloved Good Shepherd Sunday. In this “figure of speech” as used in the Bible, shepherds represent the archetypal Israelite past, and sheep, far from being dirty and stupid, are gifts from God that give life to the community.



WE GATHER



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Pastoral Triptych

arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen

Assembly: **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

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.

Assembly: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Pastor: 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.

Assembly: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

In this metrical paraphrase of Psalm 23, we give voice to one of scripture's most enduring articulations of divine care. The text's emphasis on provision, guidance, and restoration resonates with the Johannine image of Christ as the Good Shepherd (John 10), while also reflecting the trust and shared life described in Acts 2. The Scottish tune CRIMOND, with its balanced phrasing and dignified melodic contour, supports a posture of ordered confidence. As we sing, we are not simply recalling the psalm, but inhabiting its claims, confessing ourselves as those who are led, sustained, and gathered by God.

Pastor: 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.

Assembly: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Pastor: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. To you be all honor and praise, now and forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

The Lord's My Shepherd

1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
 4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;
 5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,

in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
 my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

GREETING

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
 Assembly: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

Assembly: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

(Setting 9)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



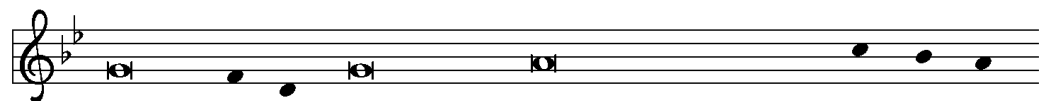
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



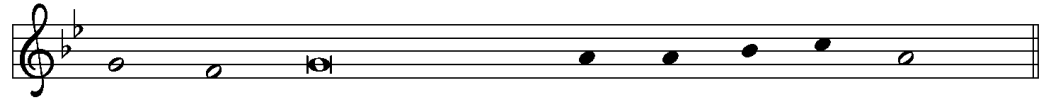
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

(Setting 9)

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of

all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The prayer of the day, based on one in the 2002 Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (p. 118), attends to the voice of the Shepherd, which we hear each Sunday in the reading of the word.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

Assembly: Amen.

Please sit.





LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

Christians have seen in Luke's inspiring description a goal for the Christian life. Baptism is to lead to care for the poor and to the praise of God.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day 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, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL OFFERING

Psalm 23

by John Carter

Jeremy Shoop, piano

*When I am in need,
God promises to fulfill my needs.
When I am unsettled,
God promises to restore me.
When I am frightened,
God promises protection and comfort.
When I am in need of food or healing,
God promises to provide more than I ask.
When I cry out for mercy,
God promises forgiveness.*

In life and in death, God promises to be present with me through it all.

- Mary Kay Beall

This passage from 1 Peter is moved out of its sequence so that the reference to God as shepherd in verse 25 fits with the dominant metaphor of the day. Beginning the reading in verse 19, omitting the verse addressed to slaves, exemplifies the task of the lectionary: to select biblical passages that have relevance of the contemporary Christian community. The whole community is now guarded by Christ the shepherd.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Peter:

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For 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.”

²³ When 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.

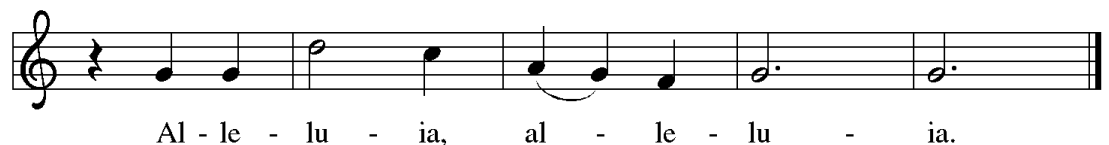
²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

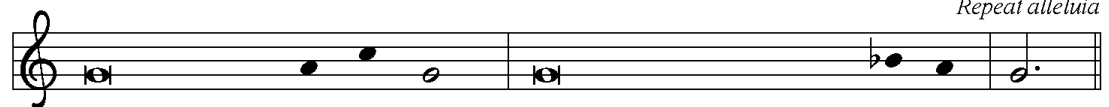
Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The church understands Christ as both the shepherd and the gate, itself as the flock, and the enclosure as the church. According to John, sheep are a communal metaphor for shared abundant life. In John's gospel are eleven passages in which the name of God, I AM, is tied to an image, and today's selection includes one of them: I AM the gate. Christians have seen the sacraments as the pasture for the flock.

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

Pastor: The Gospel according to John the 10th chapter.

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please sit.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.



This hymn draws us into a theologically rich paradox at the center of Christian confession: Christ is both sacrificial Lamb and guiding Shepherd. Drawing on imagery from John's Gospel and 1 Peter, the text holds together complementary dimensions of Christ's identity—self-offering and authority, suffering and care. These are not competing metaphors but mutually interpretive ones, illuminating a form of leadership defined by self-giving love. As we sing, we are invited to perceive more fully the nature of Christ's redemptive work and, in turn, to locate our own discipleship within that same pattern.

HYMN OF THE DAY

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
 stripped of might up - on the cross,
 sit in pow - er at God's side,
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



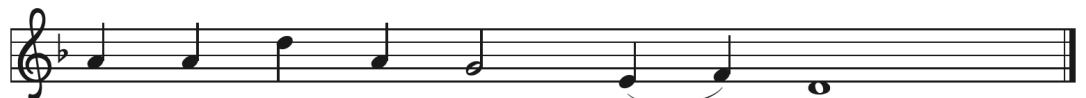
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
 have a love that reach - es wide.
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 you, who are both gift and cost.
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

	Assisting Minister:	Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.
<i>We pray for the greater church.</i>	Assisting Minister:	Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,
	Assembly:	receive our prayer.
<i>We pray for creation.</i>	Assisting Minister:	Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,
	Assembly:	receive our prayer.
<i>We pray for justice.</i>	Assisting Minister:	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,
	Assembly:	receive our prayer.
<i>We pray for those in need.</i>	Assisting Minister:	Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (<i>the assembly offers names</i>). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,
	Assembly:	receive our prayer.
<i>We pray for this congregation.</i>	Assisting Minister:	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,
	Assembly:	receive our prayer.
<i>We remember the saints.</i>	Assisting Minister:	Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,
	Assembly:	receive our prayer.

The sharing of The Peace is an ancient ritual that puts us right with our neighbors before we offer our gifts to God.

Pastor: 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.

Assembly: Amen.

THE PEACE

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

Assembly: And also with you.

Please sit.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Now the Green Blade Rises
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Eric Whitehill

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

(Stanza 4)

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788. st. 4
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

Assembly: Amen.



WE COME TO GOD'S TABLE



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Pastor: It is our duty and delight.... and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

(Setting 9)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.
Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Please sit.

DISTRIBUTION

*This is Christ's table of welcome. Jesus invites **all** who are hungry and thirsty for unconditional love and acceptance to come to God's banquet. The ushers will direct you forward at the appropriate time. Communion will be by station. The pastor will be in the center with the bread. All the bread we use here is gluten free. On either side will be someone with a tray of red wine and white grape juice. Empty cups can be placed in the basket on either side of the aisle. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms on your chest.*

AGNUS DEI

(Setting 9)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Shepherd Me, O God

Refrain
All

Shep - herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from
death in - to life. life.

to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5 | *to stanza 4*

Marty Haugen's setting of Psalm 23 places the familiar shepherd imagery in a clearly resurrection-focused context. The refrain, "from death into life" expands the psalm's themes of guidance and provision to include Christ's saving work through death and resurrection. As we sing this at communion, the connection is especially clear: the Shepherd who leads also feeds us with his own life. At the same time, this is not only a personal prayer but a shared one, echoing Acts 2's vision of a community gathered around word and table. In singing together, we are both expressing trust and being shaped into a people who follow where Christ leads.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
 2 Gent-ly you raise me and heal my wea-ry soul, you
 3 Though I should wan-der the val-ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith-ful-ness and love, I
 lead me by path-ways of righ-teous-ness and truth, my
 fear no e-vil, for you are at my side, your

Refrain



walk by the qui-et wa-ters of peace.
 spir-it shall sing the mu-sic of your name.
 rod and your staff, my com-fort and my hope.

Leader or All



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

Refrain



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev-er-more.

Final refrain
 All



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-



yond my fears, from death in-to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen

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Rooted in Luke 12:32, this hymn articulates an ecclesial identity grounded in promise: we are the “little flock” to whom the kingdom is given. The shepherd imagery, though implicit, remains structurally central: the flock’s security derives from the initiative and faithfulness of the Shepherd. Its strophic simplicity and accessible melodic idiom facilitate full congregational participation, reinforcing the communal dimension of the text. Within the communion liturgy, the hymn becomes an enacted confession of trust, resonating with the generosity and shared life described in Acts.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
 flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
 his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
 Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930
 Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

Assembly: Amen.



WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



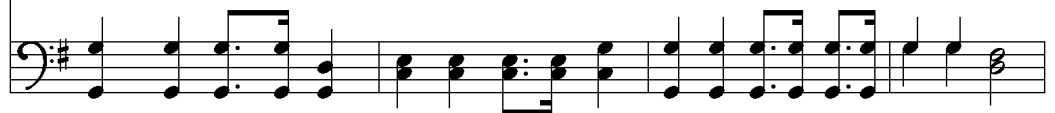
This late 19th-century gospel hymn offers a distinct yet complementary theological voice, emphasizing experiential trust through the image of “leaning” on God’s everlasting arms (cf. Deuteronomy 33:27). The repetition of the refrain functions as both affirmation and formation, shaping a posture of reliance that is at once personal and communal. As we are sent, the hymn reframes the shepherd imagery of the day into lived practice: to be led by Christ is to live in sustained trust. In this way, it extends the fellowship described in Acts beyond the gathered assembly into daily life, carried by the assurance of God’s abiding presence.

SENDING HYMN

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

Assembly: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Assembly: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

*As part of our continuous efforts to make worship more
inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you refrain
from applauding during worship and after the postlude.*

ATTRIBUTIONS:

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THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Philip and James, Apostles

Friday, May 1, 2026

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

*[Jann Esther Boyd,
in Homilies for the
Christian People, 85-
97.]*

You are a cosmonaut out in space, umbilically attached to the craft. Your air reserve is almost gone. You reach for the hatch lever. The door you came out is gone. The way in is gone and you are lost. Suddenly, from within, a new and unseen door is thrown open, and you are pulled through it to escape into life. . . . You are a full-term baby, trapped inside a mother whose labors are unable to birth you. What was your life water becomes slowly a flooding threat. Unto your hiding place pierces a cutting blade. A blaze of light, and a leaping up out of the darkness, and you are lifted out of death through the door in the flesh. You gaze upon the company who delivered you. . . . You are a secretary descending in an elevator from the 106th floor, long after hours. There is a blackout. The building is deserted for a three-day weekend. Panic envelops you as the walls of the elevator seem to shrink. Then unimaginably, the ceiling of the compartment is thrown back. Hands grasp you and deliver you from your prison. You are free and embraced in welcome. . . . As our door into the dominion of God, Jesus is our shepherd. Through Christ we find our way home to God. Christ is guardian of the threshold of God's mercy for us. Heed the voice, and be shepherded through.

—*Jann Esther Boyd*

In Ravenna, Italy, is a fifth-century mausoleum in which it is likely that Galla Pacidia, the daughter of the Roman emperor Theodosius I, was buried. One of its stunning mosaics depicts Christ as the good shepherd surrounded by sheep. His cross has become a standard of victory.



There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.

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