

EASTER 4

APRIL 26, 2026



# HE LIVES TO BE MY GOOD SHEPHERD



## GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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# WELCOME TO GRACE!

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We're glad you're here! May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone. You can follow along with the service using this worship folder or using the screens above the chancel. If you're new here, below is some helpful information about our sanctuary and our worship...

- Please reserve the **BACK PEWS** for parents with **SMALL CHILDREN**.
- A **PARENT'S ROOM** with private changing area and restroom is available through the door at the back of the middle aisle. Windows from the room allow you to still watch the service and speakers allow you to hear as well. A volume control is available on the wall by the door.
- Ask an usher to receive an **AUDIO RECEIVER** and **HEADSET** if you need hearing assistance in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
- **RESTROOMS** are available in the Narthex. Exit out of the north doors from the Sanctuary and go to the left. They are located in the alcove behind Luther's Seal.
- **LARGE PRINT** bulletins are available. See an usher to receive one.
- Visit our **WEBSITE** at <http://www.graceglendale.org> for additional information about our ministries and upcoming events.

## CONTACT US...

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Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone. Call 623-937-2010 and use the extension to the right.

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## AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

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**Preaching Minister:** Pastor Sellnow

**Liturgist:** Pastor Jacobson

**Senior ushers:** 8:00 AM – Bruce Rademacher  
10:30 AM – AJ McDunn

**Organist:** Jeff Wegner

**A/V Team:** 8:00 AM – Tracey Moreland / Mark Breiling  
10:30 AM – Paul Sullivan

## ABOUT THE THEME

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*Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to choose my own direction in life. I would be terrible at it, because, like a sheep, I can generally see only what's in front of me at the moment, and I get myself into trouble. It is especially difficult for me to look far into my future as planned by Jesus. If he had not risen from the dead, I would be on my own.*

*But he lives, and it makes a difference. I have the reliable direction of the Good Shepherd. He feeds us with his Word. He protects us from the roaring lion, Satan. He is leading us into the green pastures of eternal life. For centuries, the Church has observed this Fourth Sunday of Easter to celebrate that Jesus lives to be our Good Shepherd.*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*Setting 1 (CW 154)*

**HYMN: JESUS, SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP**

CW 551

*Please stand*

### INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

### DECLARATION OF GRACE

CW 155

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by

his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

### **GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH**

*CW 157*



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



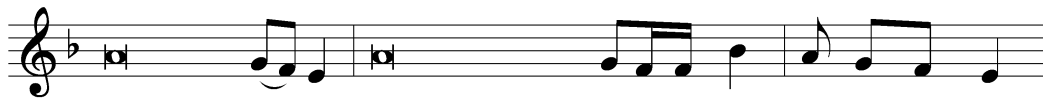
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



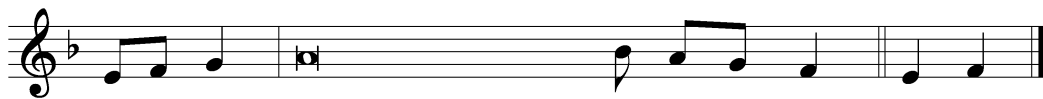
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## The Word

### SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING

Acts 2:42–47

***The Good Shepherd's flock grew as people devoted themselves to the apostolic teaching.***

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ADULT CHOIR (8:00)

*"Beautiful Savior"*

## GRADES PREK-2 (10:30)

*"Oh, How Good is Christ the Lord"*

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19–25

***St. Peter calls on us to follow our Shepherd and Overseer even if it means we will suffer for doing good.***

<sup>19</sup>For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. <sup>20</sup>But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup>To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup>When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

<sup>24</sup>"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." <sup>25</sup>For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*



## **THE SHEPHERD AT THE GATE**

*Please stand*

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH for Good Shepherd Sunday**

Loving Shepherd of the sheep, fill us with contentment and confidence during this season as we celebrate your Easter victory. You laid down your life for the sheep and then rose again to assure us that you give us eternal life.

**Good Shepherd, save us.**

Strengthen our faith to follow where you lead, to the green pastures of your Word, the quiet waters of our baptism, and the gracious table of your body and blood where our cup overflows with your forgiving love. Guide us to find in you the gate that leads to safety and good pastures.

**Good Shepherd, lead us.**

Guard and protect us from those who want to lead us astray and snatch us out of your hand. Give us courage to fight against the devil and wisdom to recognize false teachers. Lead us to honor and follow those you have called to shepherd your flock, the Church.

**Good Shepherd, guide us.**

Let your rod and your staff comfort us and all your sheep in times of sickness and sadness and especially when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

### *Special Intercessions*

May we find in your redemption and your Father's resolve the unbreakable promise that we will dwell in your house forever.

**Good Shepherd, console us.**

Move us to reach out to sheep who are not yet a part of our sheep pen but whom you have claimed as your own. Give us your passion to search for the sheep who are lost and lead us to rejoice when they have been found.

**Good Shepherd, inspire us.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

### *Silent prayer*

We thank you for all the blessings we have gained from your goodness: family and friends, wealth and health, work and leisure. Give us wisdom to long for and cherish your more precious gifts, your Word and sacraments, so that your goodness and love may follow us all the days of our life.

**Good Shepherd, hear us. Amen.**

### **OFFERINGS OF LOVE TO OUR LORD**

Please complete the "Welcome to Grace" register in your pew at this time.

### **HYMN: CHRIST, THE WORD OF GOD INCARNATE**

*CW 528 sts. 1, 4-6*

*Please stand*

### **PRAYER**

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN: THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD, I'LL NOT WANT**

*CW 555*

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# MY WORSHIP NOTES



*For children to use during worship.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name of the church season or special day today? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue White Purple Red Green

The Sermon Text Was: \_\_\_\_\_

This is in the:  Old Testament  New Testament



What was the sermon about? \_\_\_\_\_

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My favorite song today was:



\_\_\_\_\_

Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

- Yes  
 No



Communion?

- Yes  
 No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

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# Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

## THE SHEPHERD AT THE GATE

*John 10:1-10*

What artwork (painting, stained glass) of Jesus as the Good Shepherd do you recall? What message does it convey? What does it miss from John 10?

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Why is it important to know that Jesus was speaking against the Pharisees in our sermon text?

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Who are the modern-day Pharisees? That is, what leaders in visible churches seek to rob and steal and kill and destroy the flock of God spiritually?

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Where else, besides false teachers, can danger come from for us as God's sheep? How does Jesus provide protection and direction to his sheep?

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What is your favorite rendition of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm in song? Why? If you don't have one pick one of them from the service today that you like best and explain why.

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