

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026

*“Our Christian Life Together”*

## THE EASTER ACCLAMATION AND WELCOME

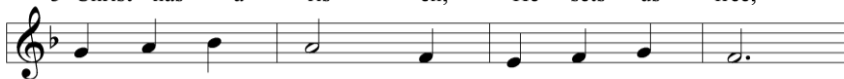
P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## THE OPENING HYMN #466 *“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!”*



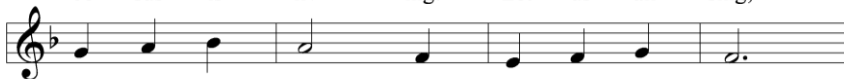
1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.  
2 For three long days the grave did its worst  
3 The an - gel said to them, “Do not fear!  
4 “Go spread the news: He’s not in the grave;  
5 Christ has a - ris - en; He sets us free;



Re - joyce and praise Him, al - le - lu - ia.  
Un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.  
You look for Je - sus who is not here.  
He has a - ris - en this world to save.  
Al - le - lu - ia, to Him prais - es be.



For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb,  
He who gives life did death un - der - go;  
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare;  
Je - sus’ re - deem - ing la - bors are done;  
Je - sus is liv - ing! Let us all sing;



E - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.  
And in its con - quest His might did show.  
On - ly the grave cloths are ly - ing there.”  
E - ven the bat - tle with sin is won.”  
He reigns tri - um - phant, heav - en - ly King.

*Refrain*



Let us sing praise to Him with end - less joy;



Death’s fear - ful sting He has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

*(please stand)*

## THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

P: O almighty God,

**C: Merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

**THE INTROIT** Psalm 95:1-3, 6-7a; *antiphon:* John 10:14, 15b

P: [Jesus said] "I am the Good Shepherd;

**C: I know My sheep and My sheep know Me—and I lay down My life for the sheep."**

P: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;

**C: let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**

P: Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song.

**C: For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.**

P: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

**C: for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care. 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.**

P: [Jesus said] "I am the Good Shepherd;

**C: I know My sheep and My sheep know Me—and I lay down My life for the sheep."**

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE #482 "This Joyful Eastertide"



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and  
2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the  
3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son

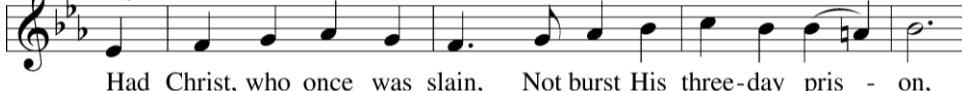


sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,  
riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill  
slum - ber Till trump from east to west

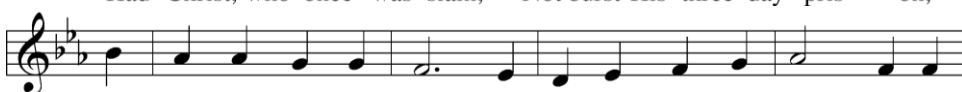


Has sprung to life this mor - row:  
My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:  
Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

*Refrain*



Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,



Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## THE FIRST READING Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## **THE PSALM OF THE DAY** Psalm 23 (KJV)

**The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want.**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;**

**He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul;**

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;**

**Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

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

**and I will 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.**

## **THE EPISTLE** 1 Peter 2:19-25 (ESV)

For 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

## **THE VERSE** *(tune: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" LSB #803)*

**Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! God of pow-er, God of love,**

**You gave Your Son to re-deem us; You sent Him from heav'n a-bove.**

**By Your Ho-ly Spir-it op-en Hearts to hear our Shep-herd's voice.**

**That in faith we al-ways fol-low And in heav'n with Him re-joice.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL** John 10:1-10 (ESV)

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

"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: Praise to You, O Christ.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED *(Saturday only)*

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)*

## THE MEMORY VERSE *(from Luther's Small Catechism; on The Lord's Supper)*

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

## THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### THE HYMN OF THE DAY #710 *“The Lord's My Shepherd”*



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me  
2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I  
4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence  
5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly



down to lie In pas - tures green; He  
walk doth make With - in the paths of  
fear no ill; For Thou art with me,  
of my foes; My head Thou dost with  
fol - low me; And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.  
righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.  
and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.  
oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.  
ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

**THE SERMON** *“Our Christian Life Together”* Text: Acts 2:42-47

**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #740** *“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b> I am Jesus’ little lamb,<br/>Ever glad at heart I am;<br/>For my Shepherd gently guides me,<br/>Knows my need and well provides me,<br/>Loves me ev’ry day the same,<br/>Even calls me by my name.</p> | <p><b>2</b> Day by day, at home, away,<br/>Jesus is my staff and stay.<br/>When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,<br/>Into pleasant pastures leads me;<br/>When I thirst, He bids me go<br/>Where the quiet waters flow.</p> |
|--|--|

- 3** 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.

**THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION** *(page 272 in the hymnal)*

*(please stand)*

**THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(Each petition concludes with the following response: “Lord, in Your mercy,” “hear our prayer.”)*

**THE 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.

**THE BENEDICTION**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✕ give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## THE CLOSING HYMN #861 "Christ Be My Leader"



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

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## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS