



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, April 26, 2026
11:00 A.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Plain text indicates a part of the liturgy led by a worship leader; **bold text** indicates a congregational response.

Hymn numbers refer to their corresponding pages in the back of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

Please leave your offering in the plate at the front of the nave, near the pulpit. If you would like to give online, please use the QR code to the right.



Welcome

Prayer Requests

Prelude

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

John Innes

Children's Sermon

We stand as we are able.

Opening Dialog

P O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory?

C Christ is risen, and you are overthrown.

P Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen.

C Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice.

P Christ is risen, and life reigns.

C Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.

P For Christ, being risen from the dead,
is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

C To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages!

Hymn 789

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Our Opening Dialog comes from the Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom.

Standing is the posture of the resurrection. We stand when we sing hymns and for other parts of the service as an expression of resurrection joy. It is a way of proclaiming that Jesus is powerfully alive! Colossians 3:14-18

We begin services in Easter-tide with the Paschal Greeting, which recalls the resurrected Jesus' greeting to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (Matt 28:6). The apostolic greeting which follows quotes the apostle Paul (2 Cor. 13:14)

The Hymn of Praise, Worthy Is Christ, is sometimes referred to as the Easter song of triumph and is adapted from Revelation 5:9-13 and 19:4-9.

Greeting

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

C **And also with you.**

Song of Praise

Worthy Is Christ

Refrain

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

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

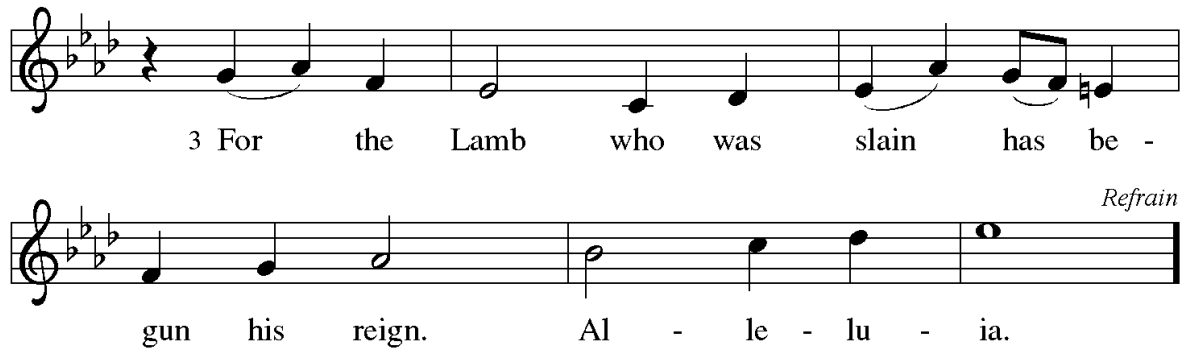
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



The Prayer of the Day is tied to the overall theme of the scripture lessons or, sometimes, to the theme of day if it is a special occasion in the church calendar.

The tradition of reading sacred scripture in worship is a tie to our roots in Judaism. 1 Timothy 4:13 reminds us of the importance of this practice.

During the Sundays of Easter, the first lesson is from the Acts of the Apostles.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P 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.

C **Amen**

We are seated.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Acts 2:42-47

L A reading from Acts.

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

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day 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, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

A psalm is spoken or sung in response to the first reading.

Psalm 23

*We chant the Psalm responsively, with the congregation singing the **bold** verses.*

¹The LORD¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not¹ be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down¹ in green pastures
and leads me be-¹ side still waters.**

³You restore my¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways¹ for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they¹ comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is¹ running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the¹ LORD forever.**

The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church.

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:19-25

L A reading from First Peter.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For 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.”

²³When 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. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation is the congregation's response to the announcement and reading of the Holy Gospel. It gives special focus to the Gospel, the principal and climactic biblical reading in the liturgy.

We stand.

Gospel Acclamation

The cantor sings the first alleluia; all join for the remainder of the acclamation.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluias*

Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.

The Liturgy of the Word culminates in the reading of the gospel and the sermon by which Christ comes among his people and speaks to us in our own context. Because of this we stand to listen to the good news of our Lord.

The Gospel: John 10:1-10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

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

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

Sermon

Pastor James Armentrout

This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.

The Nicene Creed (which begins, "We believe...") has been used in worship since the 5th century

We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.

Hymn 502

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The Creed

P Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.

**C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in
accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

We join our hearts in prayer as we pray for the Church, for the well-being of creation, for peace and justice, for those in need. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

The Prayers



Each petition concludes:

P Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY



Much more than a pleasant greeting—we do this to proclaim God’s promise of peace.
2 Corinthians 13:11

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

We greet one another, saying “Peace be with you.”

The Offering

Our gifts are received and dedicated to our Lord’s service. These offerings support the ministries of this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

Offertory Anthem

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep

Raymond H. Haan

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,
Keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
Nothing can thy pow’r withstand;
None can pluck me from thy hand.

Loving Shepherd ever near,
Teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
Suffer not my steps to stray
From the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest I would go,
Walking in thy steps below,
Till within the heav’nly fold
I my Shepherd shall behold.
Amen

- Jane Leeson

We stand as we are able and sing the offertory.

Offertory

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

As our gifts of offerings and tithes are brought forward we sing a canticle of thanksgiving for God’s generous goodness.



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-’ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - ’ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Our prayer is modeled after the Jewish prayer of thanksgiving and dedicates the giver to a stewardship of all life.

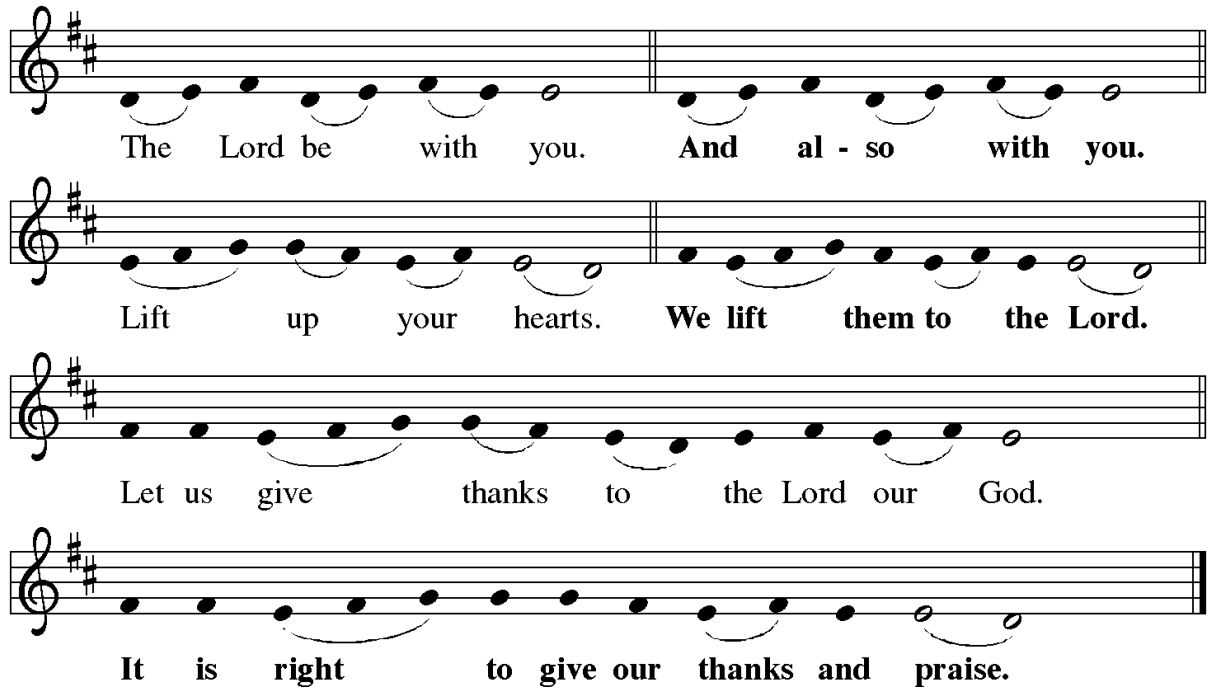
The Thanksgiving Dialogue begins the part of our worship called the Great Thanksgiving.

Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. Merciful God,

C **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, amen.**

Thanksgiving Dialogue



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The dialogue and the Proper Preface are ancient parts of the worship which proclaim our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal.

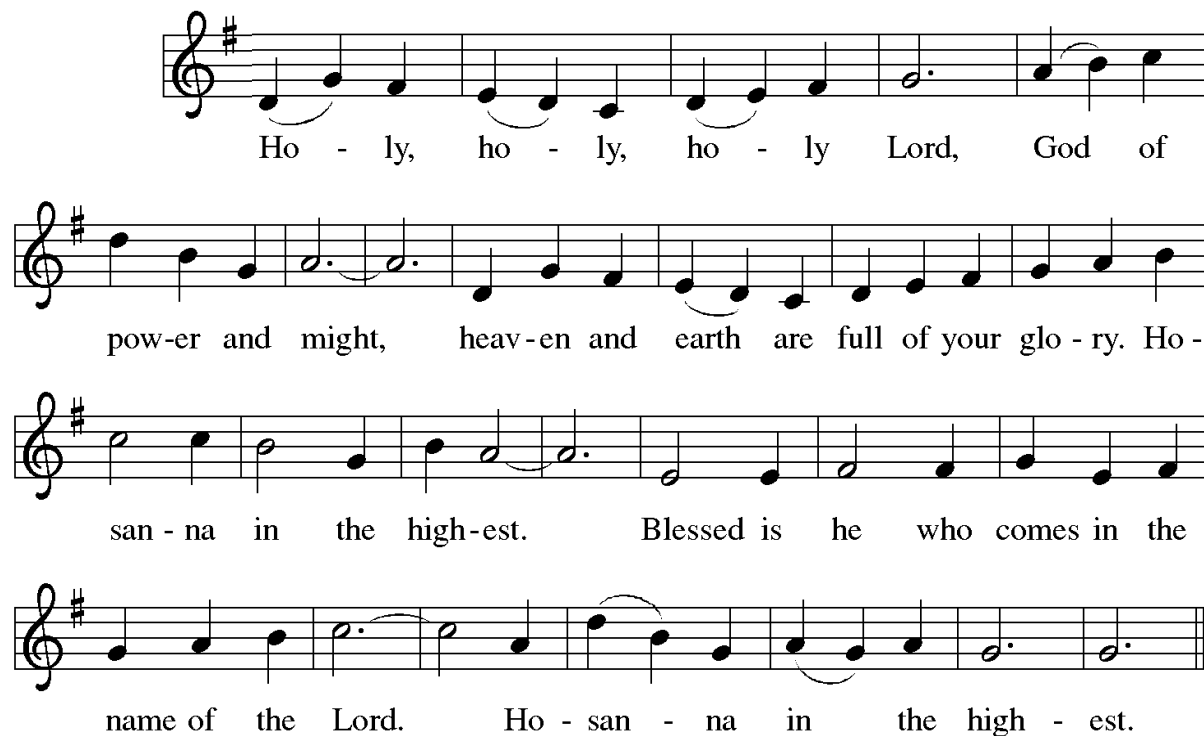
The Proper Preface

The presiding minister continues: "It is indeed right ..."

The proper preface concludes: "we praise your name and join their unending hymn."

The Sanctus ("holy") echoes the angels' cry in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus entered Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility.

Sanctus



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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer recalls God's saving acts throughout history and, particularly, the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture.

Eucharistic Prayer

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
C **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

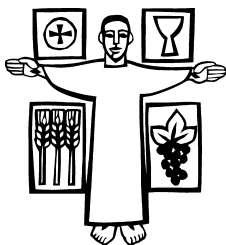
P With Saint Mark and your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
C **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer brings the Great Thanksgiving to a conclusion. Prayed here, this familiar and beloved prayer becomes the table-prayer of the congregation. Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:5-15

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach 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**

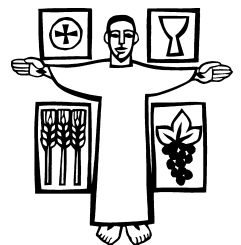
We are seated.



COMMUNION WITH OUR RISEN LORD
WELCOME TO CHRIST'S TABLE

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We come forward by way of the center aisle to receive communion at the altar rail. We return to our pews by way of the side aisles.



Our Communion Song recalls the Emmaus story (Luke 24:13-35) as well as 1 Cor. 10:16-17.


Once we have all received the sacrament and returned to our seats, we celebrate the personal encounter with the risen Christ through blessing, prayer, and singing.

Communion Song

The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus

All sing the refrain; the choir sings the verses, and all repeat the refrain after each verse.

Refrain



The dis - ci-ples knew the Lord Je-sus in the break-ing of the bread.

Choir: The bread which we break, alleluia,
is the communion of the body of Christ

Choir: One body are we, alleluia,
for though many we share one bread

Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray. Gracious God,

C **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, amen.**

Blessing of Easter

P God the Father, who raised Christ Jesus from the dead, continually show us loving kindness.

C **Amen**

P God the Son, victor over sin and death, grant us a share in the joy of his resurrection.

C **Amen**

P God the Spirit, giver of light and peace, renew our hearts in love.

C **Amen**

P May almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, continue to bless us, now and forever.

C **Amen**

We are dismissed from worship knowing that our service does not end. Rather, having been in the presence of the risen Lord, we leave so that our service may truly begin.

Hymn 369

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia

Dismissal

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Go in peace loving the risen Lord and loving your neighbor. Alleluia, alleluia.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

Robert J. Powell

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S		
Sunday, April 26 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	11AM	Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, April 27	5PM—7PM	The Lion's Share open
Tuesday, April 28		
Wednesday, April 29	6:30PM	
Thursday, April 30		
Friday, May 1	10AM—noon	The Lion's Share open
	6:30PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, May 2	8PM	NA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, May 3 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	11AM Noon	Worship with Holy Communion Spring Fling

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Greeter		
Lector		
Communion Assistant		
Coffee Hour		



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Loving God, Loving Our Neighbor

Ministers and Staff

Ministers: Congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Secretary / Financial Administrator: Kathy Bryant

Organist / Choir Director: Jacob Gordon

Pastor: James Armentrout

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The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus—music by Jacob R. Gordon.