

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

THEME: Stories That Matter - Knowing That Voice

10:15 AM Worship

Descriptor for front of bulletin:

The season of Easter, or Eastertide, is a time of embracing the promise and hope of Resurrection. It is a time of leaning into the stories that matter. Come and gather around the stories of those who wrestled with the Easter event and some of the words of preparation that Jesus gave to help us live the reality of eternity now. It is clear from these stories that Jesus wanted to equip us to thrive in a season of Easter promise. Like sheep, we learn to recognize the Shepherd's voice together. Worship this week focuses on discernment as a communal practice and listening for Christ's call to abundant life.

Graphic for bulletin:



+ GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Pastorale - Albert Carrière

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter people, we gather to worship and to listen, to learn the sound, the feel, the cadence of the Shepherd's voice.

We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

We gather to worship and to discern, to learn how to recognize our Shepherd's voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

We gather to worship and to find shelter, to learn to trust our Shepherd's voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice. Amen.

HYMN ELW 848 Give to Our God Immortal Praise

GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 385 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us. When we face darkness and death, journey beside us. When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence. When we are fearful, feed us at your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. **In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 ELW 780 Shepherd Me, O God

The cantor will sing the refrain, then the congregation will sing the refrain. After each verse, the cantor will indicate when the congregation sings the refrain.

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

READING: I Peter 2:19-25

At the conclusion of the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

At the beginning of the reading:

The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 764 Have No Fear, Little Flock

NICENE CREED

**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.**

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING Speak, O Lord – arr. Dan Kreider
Kevin Schanely, tenor

OFFERTORY ELW 806 O God, My Faithful God

O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
with - out whom noth-ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.

OFFERING PRAYER

Faithful Shepherd, who calls us by name, you invite us into a life that is rich in meaning, deep in joy, and bold in compassion. You speak, and we long to follow—although the world is noisy and the path unclear. In this moment of offering, we quiet our hearts to listen again. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. May they be used to bring abundance to others, to feed the hungry, to strengthen the lost, and to proclaim your voice of love. In coming and going, in worship and service, make us more like Christ, in whose name we give and pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each prayer petition will end with the phrase:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Beloved, may God bless us with open hearts and minds
so that together we may pay attention, discern, and follow your Shepherd's voice,
for that is the way that leads to abundant life on earth as it is in heaven.

In the name of God,
Father, Son and Spirit.

Amen

SENDING HYMN ELW 778 The Lord's My Shepherd

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Carillon - Andrew Wright

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