

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion towards all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Coulee Clean-up Saturday, May 2 at 10 am, Elizabeth Hall wetland area

INTRODUCTION

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. As Easter people, we go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

GATHERING SONG "I Know That My Redeemer Lives!" ELW 619 – v 1, 3-5



I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort

He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to
He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who

guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!

me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

**He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.**

GATHERING LITANY (based on Psalm 23)

One I AM the good shepherd
Two (the one who tends us,
guides us into pastures,
who recognises the sounds of our names).

One I AM the good shepherd
Two (the one who bends to heal us
travels through the deepest valleys with us
who gives up everything for us all).

One I AM the good shepherd
Two (the one whose rod and staff comfort us
whose strength and love holds us
whose cup of love runs over).

One I AM the good shepherd
Two and we will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.

"Now the Feast and Celebration" NTF liturgy/ELW 789

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

It is our delight to 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. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

A reading from Acts.

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

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 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, 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia, Alleluia" NTF – *piano, bass, guitar, cajon*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go 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."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

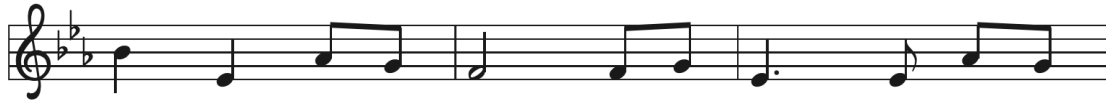
Today's sermon has been prepared and shared by Pastor Steve Johnston who serves St. Stephens in Kitchener, ON, Eastern Synod.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken," ACS 966— *piano, bass, guitar, cajon*



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

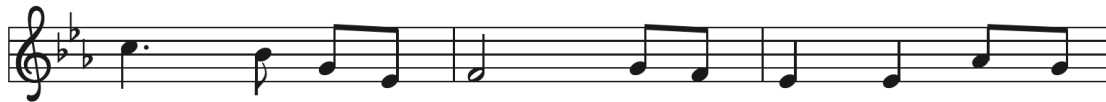


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
 And also with you.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

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. By the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. God of life, **pour out your love.**

Righteous One, 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. Bring peace to the many areas of the world where war and the threat of war rages. God of life, **pour out your love.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured especially Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Victor and Judy, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Alice, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda H, Shirley J., Derek, Isobel, Shirley K., Hugh and Ally, Jim N., Donna, Helga, Clayton and Margaret, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Ray, Doreen, Alan T, and those we name silently now Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. God of life, **pour out your love.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and continue to form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. We give thanks for and ask your blessing on our Video and Sound Technicians. Hold in your care Diana Nickel and Hanna Odland, as well as Pastor Joel, Vanessa and Hans. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. God of life, **pour out your love.**

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. God of life, **pour out your love.**

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.**

MEAL

We sing as we set our table.

"The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing" ELW 531 – v 1 & 2



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also 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.

It is indeed right, our joy and our delight
that we should at all times and in all places
offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and ever-living God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us life eternal.
And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter,
with angel choruses and all witnesses to the empty tomb,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy" NTF – piano, bass, guitar, cajon



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.
The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile;
into the future.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor;
with us now.

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.

Remembering his love for us
on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Come to the table of life.
Receive the risen Lord.

Together let us take and eat, the body of Christ given for you
Together let us take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you

COMMUNION VIDEO – Easter Communion instrumental

COMMUNION SONGS

"Be Known to Us, Lord Jesus" - ACS Setting 12 Communion Song



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



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



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



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

"Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen" (Renewing Worship R191) (v 1-3)



Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en, from this meal of love and grace;
Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture God has called us to re - ceive;



may we through such love en - vi - sion whose we are, and whose, our praise.
bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed to re - lease and to con - sole.
pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture, spir - it - ed then let us live.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: God, the won - der of our days.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Spir - it, grace by whom we live.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: Pour out your Spirit on all who share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death into life fill you with great joy.

May you be rooted and grounded in + Christ's love,
strengthened by the Spirit,
and filled with all the fullness of God. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen" (v 4)

**Service be our sure vocation;
courage be our daily breath;
mercy be our destination
from this day and unto death.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Rise, O church, a living faith.**

SENDING

Go in peace. Share the Good News:
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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