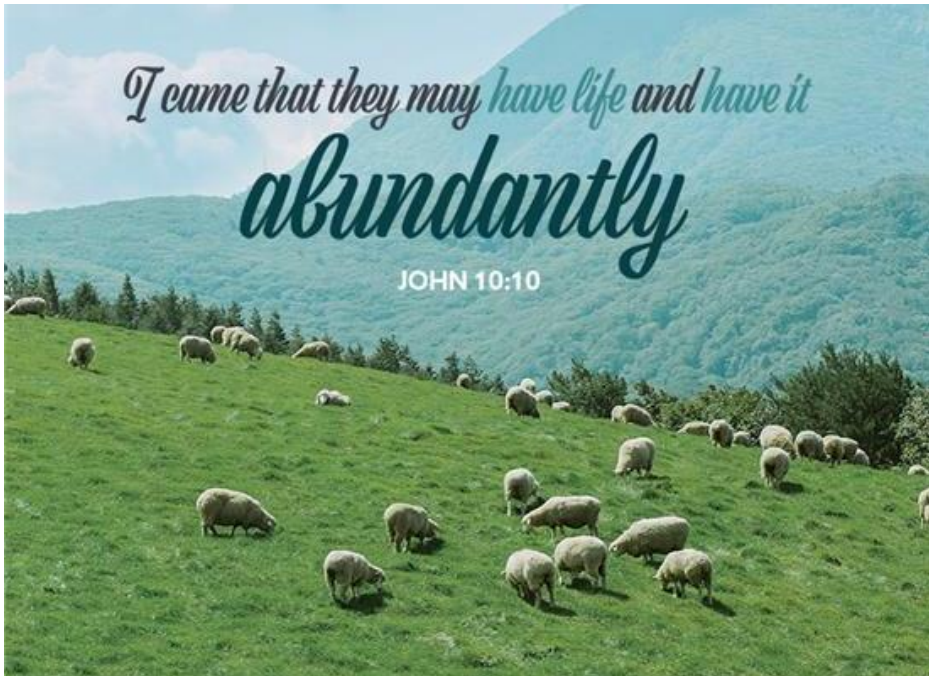




SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026



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. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM & INVOCATION

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

People: Amen.

Leader: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism ... We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters, and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

People: We praise you for the gift of new life in Christ. Alleluia!

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on the baptized, that we may find strength, comfort, and peace through being claimed as God's own in Christ Jesus.

People: May new life in Christ, given freely to us in baptism, be a daily hope and desire as well as eternal promise and assurance! Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"JESUS AT THE CENTER"

Music and lyrics: Adam Ranney, Israel Houghton, Micah Massey
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Administrators Fun Attic Music, LLC, Integrity Music

APOSTOLIC 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.**

KYRIE

Leader: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Leader: For the Reign of God, and for peace through-out the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Leader: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the Lord

All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy

Leader: Help, save, and defend us, O God.

All: Amen

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, ©1990 GIA Publications Inc.

HYMN OF PRAISE

NOW THE FEAST (ELW #167)

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. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of
God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

WORD

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

TEMPLE TALK - Mr. Tom Powell, Executive Director of Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat center

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

ACTS 2:42-47

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

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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!

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

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON**ABUNDANT LIFE , OVERFLOWING GENEROSITY****PASTOR DAVE YOUNG**

1. In Acts 2:42-47, the early church is described as being devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. What does this passage teach us about the nature of Christian community? How can we foster a sense of belonging in our own congregations today?
2. John 10:1-10 presents Jesus as the Good Shepherd, contrasting with thieves and robbers. What qualities define a good leader in a faith community, based on this passage? How can we identify and respond to leaders who do not embody these qualities?
3. Jesus mentions that He came to give life abundantly. How does the concept of “abundant life” manifest in the practices of the early church in Acts? In what ways can we experience and promote this abundance in our lives and communities?
4. Both passages highlight active participation in faith. How can we apply the principles of teaching, sharing, and caring from Acts 2:42-47 to our daily lives? What practical steps can we take to live out our faith in a way that reflects the Good Shepherd’s love and care?



- 1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.
- 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres - ence is my stay;
- 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23

Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with “Merciful God” and the response will be “**receive our prayer**”

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the ongoing ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church! In-person gifts may be placed in the offering plates, mailed to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (2077 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603), given online at www.bethelwinchester.com or using the adjacent QR code.



MUSIC FOR REFLECTION – ON EAGLE’S WINGS – Ron and Darline

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT (ELW #465)

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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THE 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.**

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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!

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 6/8. The first staff begins with a common time signature (C) that changes to 6/8. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

JESUS WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our God _____ in heav-en, _____ ho - ly is your name, _____ your
reign come, _____ your will done, _____ on earth as in heav-en _____
Give us today our dai-ly bread, and help us forgive as we have been for - give-en _____

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 6/8. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with blank lines indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.



In the time of tri-al lead us in-to light, for yours is the
king-dom, and the power, and the glo-ry, for-ev-er. Our
God, in heav-en, ho-ly is your name, ho-ly is your name.

Words: Matthew 6:9-13; adapt by Mark A Miller and Laurie Zelman Music: Mark A Miller Adapt and music ©2008 Abingdon Press admin by the Copyright Company

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome to the Lord's Table!

Everyone, regardless of age and denomination, is invited to join us for Holy Communion. If you prefer a blessing, simply inform the communion distributors. The ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

You will receive the bread from the first Holy Communion distributor. You will pick up the cup of wine or juice from the tray held by the second distributor. For those who need gluten free a pre-packaged **gluten-free** wafer and a cup of **grape juice is also available.**

Once you have communed, you are invited to return to your seat for silent reflection or singing

LAMB OF GOD



1. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha-tred and fear;
have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

SAVIOUR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US (ELW #789)



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847
 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

COMMUNION BLESSING

Holy One, 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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BENEDICTION

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“BUT FOR GRACE”

Music and Lyrics David Baroni, John Chisum

© 1994 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Integrity's Praise! Music Administrators Integrity Music

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

We hope every person felt welcomed here, especially our guests. We trust that our time together has filled you with a sense of joy and peace, and we invite you to return soon.

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