

Trinity Lutheran Church, LCMS

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Pastor Ken Huner

4th Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Creative Worship

PRE-SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL

AS WE GATHER

The place where we worship is often called the Lord's house. It is a sacred space, a holy house, and more. It is our blessed home. English clergyman Isaac Watts, who authored hundreds of hymn texts during his life, concluded his paraphrase of the Twenty-Third Psalm in this memorable way: "The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; oh, may His house be my abode and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home" (OAR 272). We are so much more than strangers or guests here today. We are children at home. Paul writes to the Ephesians and to us, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children" (Ephesians 5:1).

PREPARATION

The people gather in the sanctuary, where the only candle lit in the church is the Christ candle or the paschal candle.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

P May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

He lights a candle from the one that is burning and passes the light to the acolyte who will light the other candles at the altar area, and beyond—if there are others in the sanctuary.

P The light of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: 811 OH, THAT I HAD A THOUSAND VOICES

- 1 Oh, that I had a thousand voices
 To praise my God with thousand
 tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
 Would then proclaim in grateful
 songs
To all, wherever I might be,
What great things God has done for
me.
- 2 O all you pow'rs that He implanted,
 Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has
granted!
 Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise
With heartfelt joy our Maker's praise.
- 3 You forest leaves so green and tender
 That dance for joy in summer air,
You meadow grasses, bright and
slender,
 You flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,

You live to show God's praise alone.
Join me to make His glory known.

- 4 All creatures that have breath and motion,
That throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
Come, share with me my heart's devotion,
Help me to sing God's praises high.
My utmost pow'rs can never quite
Declare the wonders of His might.

- 5 Creator, humbly I implore You
To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You,
Together with the angel throng
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing
Eternal anthems to my King.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

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INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 16:1–2, 5–6, 9, 11

P Preserve me, O God, for in You I take
refuge.

**C I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I
have no good apart from You.”**

P The LORD is my chosen portion and my
cup; You hold my lot.

**C The lines have fallen for me in pleasant
places; indeed, I have a beautiful
inheritance.**

P Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

C You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 85:1–2, 7

P LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

C You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

P You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

C You covered all their sin.

P Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

C and grant us Your salvation.

P Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

C Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, mighty Judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have not lived up to our calling as Your peaceable people. We have not extended ourselves to bring Your peace in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We have not done the good You demand and have not been the people You would have us be. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on us, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Forgive us all that needs Your forgiving grace and with the power of the Holy Spirit direct us to serve You faithfully all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P God has promised His merciful forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in confession. He will revive them and speak peace to His people. In His stead and by His command, therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of peace and joy, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G Amen.

WORD

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

P I am the good shepherd.

I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

**G Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock
of our salvation!**

P Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

**G For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

P Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

C For He is our God,
and we are the people of His
pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

**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 I am the good shepherd.
I know My own and My own know
Me, and I lay down My life for the
sheep.

KYRIE

L In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

L For the peace from above and for
our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

L For the peace of the whole world, for
the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all let us pray to
the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

L For this holy house and for all who
offer here their worship and praise let
us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

L Help, save, comfort, and defend us,
gracious Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

C **1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven**

**Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

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

G Amen.

FIRST READING*Acts 2:42–47***The Fellowship of the Believers**

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM**The LORD Is My Shepherd**

P ¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

C ²**He makes me lie down in green pastures.**

He leads me beside still waters.

P ³He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

C ⁴**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

P ⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

C **‘Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:19–25

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For 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. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When 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. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

Romans 6:9; John 10:14

C **Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1–10

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

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

I Am the Good Shepherd

¹[Jesus said:] “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. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and 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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

KIDS' SERMON:

HYMN: 711 SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.
- 2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.
- 3 You have promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.
- 4 Early let us seek Your favor,
Early let us do Your will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Hymns for the Young, 1836, 4th ed., London, alt.

Text: Public domain

SERMON: "THE DOOR OF BLESSINGS"

John 10:1-10

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS BY ADULT CONFIRMATION -- WE WELCOME SHELLEY COUGHLIN

Apostles' Creed

C 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: 956 CREATE IN ME

1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from
me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy
salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12

Text: Public domain

LORD'S PRAYER

G 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.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and
✠ give you peace.

G Amen.

HYMN: 710 THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD, I'LL NOT WANT

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark
vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, 1650, Edinburgh

Text: Public domain

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A,
Quarter 2.

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New Bible Study For Tuesday Morning: God's Word is our source for life. Through deeper study of the Gospel of John, we will see the bigger picture of God's plan for our lives. If you crave more intentional, comprehensible and practical application study of God's Word, you will appreciate the Life by His Word study of the Gospel of John. Whether you are new to the church, a life-long member, or studying on your own, this study will connect you with the full story of God's work in your life and lead you to see His promises anew. Each lesson is divided up in easy to use one-page handout. Join us on Tuesday mornings, starting this **Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00!**

WORSHIP SERVANTS April 26, 2026

Acolyte: Zach Groeller

Elders: Dennis Sprague

Pastor: Pastor Ken Huner

Organist: Liz Mikkelson

Special Music:

Altar: Joanna Krueger and Deb Dugan

Counting: Dan Krueger and Walt Reister

Ushers: Dan and Joanna Krueger

Greeters: Amy Bickel and Deb Dugan

MINISTRY CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sun Apr 26

9 am – Adult

Bible Study

Matthew

9 am –

Children's

Sunday School

10 am – Fourth

Sunday of

Easter

Thurs Apr 30

10:30 am – Christian Art Class

4:00 pm -- New Creation Dinner

Fri May 1

Sat May 2

Sun May 3

9 am – Adult Bible Study Matthew

9 am – Children's Sunday School

10 am – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Mon Apr 27

4:30 pm -- Confirmation

Tues Apr 28

10 am -- Adult Bible Study

11 am -- Prayer Warriors

Wed Apr 29

CHARTING OUR COURSE

Attendance week of April 19, 2026

10:00 am Worship in Person: 49/Online plays: 82

Communion: 44

9:00 am Kids Sunday school In Person: 0

9:00 am Adult Bible Class in Person: 16/Online plays: 73

Sermon Notes:

"The Door of Blessings" *John 10:1-10*

1. The Good Shepherd Opens the door of LEADING US. He does Not DRIVE us.
2. He Opens the door of Calling Each Sheep by their own individual name.
3. He Opens the Door to the Personal Bonding between Himself and the believer.
4. He Opens the Door to the Abundant Life and the Eternal life.
5. He Opens the Door of a firm but ever so Loving Grip on our lives.