

4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)
April 26, 2026

Welcome to
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lakewood, Colorado

A Warm Welcome in Christ to our Worship Guests. It is our prayer that your faith is strengthened today by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms and hymns and spiritual songs that our Scripture-based liturgy offers every week. St. Paul is a member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). The CLC is represented by congregations throughout the United States, in Canada, and throughout the continent of Africa, India, and neighboring nations. All our churches confess that the Bible is the inspired and unerring Word of God. We invite our Guests to record their visit by signing the Guestbook and to come and worship with us again. Questions? Please speak with one of the ushers. They will happy to assist you!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

based on Worship Supplement 2000 (pp. 12-21)

Opening Prayer

Hymn

161 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"
(printed on page 10)

The Invocation

P: Welcome ... in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. (*spoken*)

Confession of Sins & Announcement of Forgiveness

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen. (*spoken*)

Lord, Have Mercy *The Kyrie*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef, treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Glory to God in the Highest *The Gloria in Excelsis*



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray ...

C: Amen. (*spoken*)

First Lesson – 1 Peter 2:19-25

19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Easter Acclamation

P: The Lord is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: “My sheep listen to My voice. I know them, and they follow Me.

C: I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.”

P: The Lord is risen indeed!

C: You were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P: The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

C: And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.

C: The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want.

P: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

C: The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; He will lead them to springs of living water.

P: And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

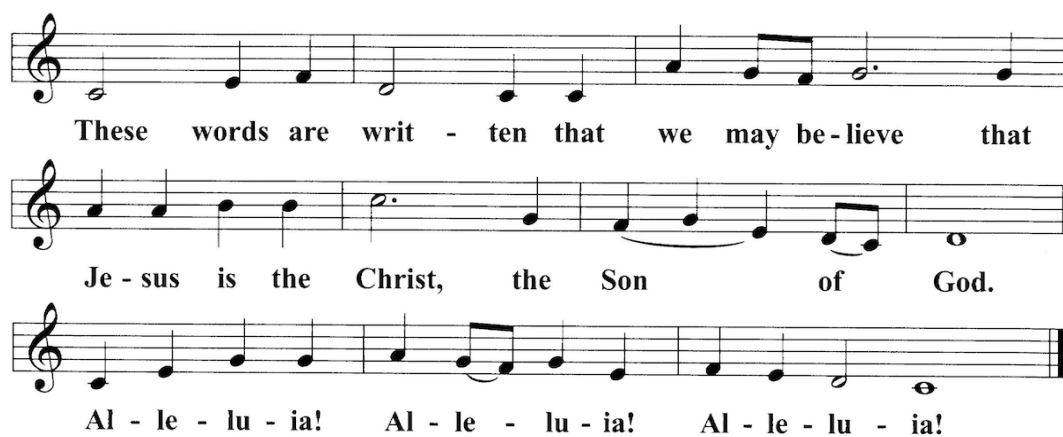
C: The Lord is risen indeed!

Second Lesson – John 10:1-10

1 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. 7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it. Alleluia!





Confession of Faith – Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn of the Day

LSB 524 – *"How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"*

Sermon, based on Acts 6:1-9; 7:2, 51-60

As Sheep of the Good Shepherd We Have a Faith "To Die For"!

1. Faith that originates from the Holy Spirit!
2. That moves us to follow our Shepherd!
3. That helps us to be His witnesses!
4. That has opened for us the door to the heavenly sheepfold!

6:1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And the saying pleased the whole

multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. 8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. | 7:2 And he said, “Brethren and fathers, listen: ... 51 “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.” 54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Offertory

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me
 not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
 Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
 Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

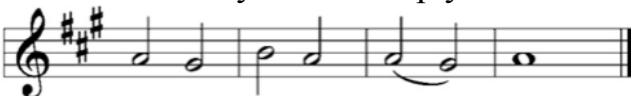
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn

LSB 687 – *"Thine Forever, God of Love"*

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you . . .

C: 
A - men, a - men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

LSB 710 – *"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"*



This Week at St. Paul

| | | |
|--------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Today (4/26) | 9:30 am | Worship Service |
| | 10:45 am | Sunday School |
| | 10:45 am | Quarterly Voters Meeting |
| Today (5/3) | 9:30 am | Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| | 10:45 am | Sunday School & Bible Class |

Extended Calendar

- West-Central Delegate Conference: Tues-Thurs, May 19-21 (hosted by Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cheyenne)
- Annual Front Range Mission Festival: Sunday, June 14, 2:00 pm (hosted by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland).
- 37th CLC Delegates Convention, Eau Claire, WI: Thurs-Sun, June 25-28

In Our Prayers: Ruth Greening who is scheduled to undergo back surgery this Thursday. ◇ We also ask the Lord for His continuing gracious care for our fellow members: Lance Clark, Ethel Eastridge, Mark Hartmeister, Pat Newton, Doug Tiefel, Jerry Wamboldt, and Julie Ann Zamora. ◇ May all of the Good Shepherd's lambs be under His tender care and protection.

The Annual Front Range Mission Festival is scheduled for Sunday, June 14, at 2:00 pm, hosted by Prince of Peace Lutheran in Loveland. The guest speaker will be Missionary Bruce Naumann. See the poster in the narthex bulletin board for additional details!

May Birthday (Anniversary) Blessings To . . .

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bradly Albert, May 2 | Suzannah Miller, May 24 |
| Willa Mae Janssen, May 19 | DeLisa Newton, May 29 |
| Lisa Chiappetti, May 22 | (Lance & Diana Clark, May 23) |

Tour Choir Donations: St. Paul parishioners are invited to share a donation to offset travel costs for the ILC Tour Choir. To do so, you may use your St. Paul offering envelop with "Tour Choir" written in "other synod purpose" blank. Or you place a donation in the collection plate using a regular envelope earmarked for the Tour Choir. Thank you.

Synod News & Notes

- ◆ CLCI pastor / assistant seminary professor Timothy was seriously injured in a mugging attack in January. Missionary Peter Evensen reports that his knee surgery was successful and that Timothy is "getting better day by day and that he is using walker to walk. He needs another one or two months to get completely recovered." Please pray for Timothy's continuing recovery and that the Lord would protect our pastors in India and around the world.
- ◆ CLC Youth Camp: Youth Camp on the campus of Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire is June 14-20. The camp is for children/youth entering grades 6-9 next fall. There is also a pre-camper program. Here is the link to register: <https://youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp/register>
- ◆ The women of Grace Lutheran in Valentine, NE invite you to the CLC Women's Retreat-West this September in Oacoma (Chamberlain), SD! We're holding it at the beautiful Arrowood Cedar Shore Resort, overlooking the Missouri River. Registration is now open in both digital (<https://tinyurl.com/WR-West2026>) and paper formats (available from Pastor). More information is also available at <https://womensretreat.clclutheran.net> and in the CLC Ladies Facebook group. We hope to see you this fall!

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Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

April 27 – May 2

Mon John 16:16-23 After Easter Jesus' disciples must have remembered these words, spoken by Him on the night of His betrayal. Now that He had returned to them, their sorrow was certainly turned to joy (v20).

Tues 1 Peter 2:11-12 The resurrection of Jesus makes such a difference in our lives! Now we have a future ahead of us that makes our stay here, with all its temptations to sin, merely temporary, until He comes.

Wed 1 Peter 2:13-20 As people freed by the resurrection, may we not use our freedom to indulge ourselves, but rather to glorify God by doing good. If we suffer for doing good, and endure it, God is glorified.

Thurs Lamentations 3:18-26 In spite of affliction and suffering, the prophet remembers the mercies of the Lord, and he has hope. Wait for the Lord. It is good to hope quietly for the salvation of the Lord (v26).

Fri Psalm 146 Hallelujah! (Praise the Lord!) Assured of life through Jesus' resurrection, I will praise the Lord forever (v2)! Human helpers are so limited, but the Maker of heaven and earth reigns forever (v10).

Sat Psalm 75 Thanks be to God that He rules and upholds the earth. The wicked, who wag their horns at Him, will surely be brought down, even as the righteous will be lifted up (v10). Oh, give thanks!

Today's Opening Hymn

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

161

Ps 100

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed; He formed us
3. O en - ter then His gates with joy, with - in His
4. Trust that the Lord our God is good, His mer - cy

Lord with cheer - ful voice. Serve Him with joy, His
all with - out our aid. We are the flock He
courts His praise pro - claim. Let thank - ful songs your
is for - ev - er sure. His faith - ful - ness at

prais - es tell, come now be - fore Him and re - joice!
comes to feed, the sheep who by His hand were made.
tongues em - ploy, O bless and mag - ni - fy His name.
all times stood and shall from age to age en - dure.

Text: William Kethe, 1561, alt.

OLD HUNDREDTH

Tune: Louis Bourgeois, *Geneval Psalter*, 1551; harm. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt.

LM

O Sing of Christ, #161, Messiah Lutheran Church,
Eau Claire, WI 2024. Public domain.

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