

# Called by the Good Shepherd

April 26,  
2026



Fourth Sunday  
of Easter

**Welcome, guests!** We're delighted you could join us. If you have any questions or need more information about our church, any member of Grace will be happy to assist you. This folder contains all the details about our services, with congregational responses indicated by indentation and bold letters. Please take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church entrance; it will be used only by the pastor and elder. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

**THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS:** Good Shepherd Sunday. "In such a landscape as Judea, where a day's pasture is thinly scattered over an unfenced tract of country, covered with delusive paths, frequented by wild beasts, and rolling off into the desert, the shepherd and his character are indispensable. On some high moor, across which at night the hyenas howl, when you meet him, sleepless, far-sighted, weather-beaten, armed, leaning on his staff, and looking out over his scattered sheep, every one of them on his heart." (George Smith) On Good Shepherd Sunday, we see how sharp the contrast is between true shepherds and false shepherds. All is determined by their relationship to Christ, the only gate for the sheep.

**MORNING PRAYER:** O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life---giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE:** COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION– CW, p.15



**OPENING HYMN:**

**#432**

**I AM JESUS' LITTLE LAMB**

**\*\*Please Stand for the Last Verse\*\***



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb; Ev - er glad at heart I  
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my staff and  
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the shep-herd's



am, For my shep - herd gent - ly guides me, Knows my  
stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me, In - to his  
lamb? And when my short life is end - ed, By his



needs and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry  
pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, he  
an - gel hosts at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.  
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.  
to his breast, There with - in his arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724-82; tr. composite.

Tune: WEIL ICH JESU SCHÄFLEIN BIN (77 88 77) Choralbuch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, Leipzig, 1784.



In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

**LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**KYRIE**



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



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



### PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### GLORY BE TO GOD

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;

you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,  
are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life---giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

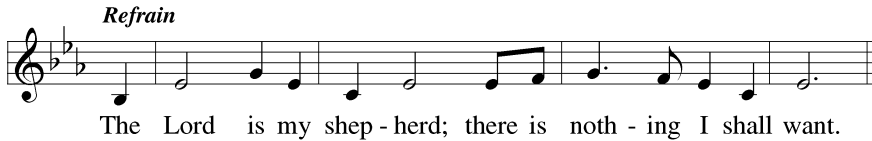
**FIRST LESSON:**

**1 SAMUEL 17:34 – 37**

*Long before he was the royal shepherd of the kingdom of Israel, David shepherded his father's flock in the wild country. He let no danger stop him from caring for his sheep. No law required a shepherd to fight a lion and a bear for the sake of the sheep. In fact, David's words here and Christ's in John 10 are all the more striking because Rabbinic law made it clear that a shepherd was not called upon to expose his own life for the safety of his flock.*

***David said to Saul, "Your servant has been taking care of his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it and rescued the lamb out of its mouth. When the lion reared up against me, I grabbed it by its mane, struck it, and killed it. Your servant struck both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has defied the ranks of the living God." David added, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."***

***Saul said to David, "Go then! May the Lord be with you."***

*Refrain*

The LORD is my shepherd,\*  
 I shall not be in want.  
 He makes me lie down in green pastures;\*  
 he leads me beside quiet waters.  
 He restores my soul;\*  
 he guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
 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.

*Refrain*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.\*  
 You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,\*  
 and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**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.**

*Refrain***SECOND LESSON****1 PETER 2:19 – 25**

*Undoubtedly, the Church was rocked by the martyrdom of Stephen—Peter included. Yet Peter reminds us that not even suffering and tragedy can remove us from the care of our Good Shepherd. To be the gate for straying sheep meant that Jesus had to suffer for us.*

***For this is favorable: if a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly because he is conscious of God. For what credit is it to you if you receive a beating for sinning and patiently endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is favorable with God.***

***Indeed, you were called to do this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you would follow in his steps. He did not commit a sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When he was insulted, he did not insult in return. When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself carried***

*our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

### VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)

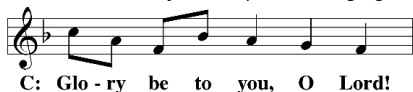


### GOSPEL

### JOHN 10:1 – 10

*Christ only infers that he is the Good Shepherd. Rather, the great “I am” statement that sets the direction for this Sunday is “I am the gate for the sheep.”*

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*“Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this illustration in speaking to the people, but they did not understand what he was telling them.*

*So Jesus said again, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: I am the door for the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.*

*“A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



## 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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

*\*\*Please Be Seated\*\**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

#508

**GRACIOUS SAVIOR, GENTLE SHEPHERD**

1 Gra - cious Sav - ior, gen - tle Shep - herd, Chil - dren all are  
 2 Ten - der Shep-herd, nev - er leave them, Nev - er let them  
 3 By your ho - ly Word in - struct them; Fill their minds with  
 4 Taught to love the ho - ly prais - es Which on earth your



dear to you; May your lov - ing arms en - fold them  
 go a - stray; By your warn - ing love di - rect - ed,  
 heav'n - ly light. By your pow'r - ful grace con - vince them  
 chil - dren sing, With their lips and hearts, sin - cere - ly,



In your care their whole life through. Gent - ly tend and  
 May they walk the nar - row way. Thus di - rect them,  
 Al - ways to ap - prove what's right. Let them feel your  
 Glad thank - of - f'rings may they bring, Then with all the



safe - ly keep them In your mer - cy strong and true.  
 thus de - fend them Lest they fall an eas - y prey.  
 yoke is eas - y; Let them find your bur - den light.  
 saints in glo - ry Join to praise their Lord and King.

Text: Jane E. Leeson, 1809–81, abr., adapt., alt.

Tune: SIEH, HIER BIN ICH, EHRENKÖNIG (87 87 87) *Geistreiches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1698.**SERMON TEXT:****1 PETER 2:19 – 25****SERMON THEME:****HE BORE OUR SINS****CREATE IN ME**

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, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
 tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

**OFFERING** – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR EASTER**

O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you have fulfilled your promises through the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

**Thanks be to God! You grant us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

**Drive out all doubt and gloom so that we can rejoice in your glorious triumph.**

Let us lift our eyes heavenward to see Him who lives to intercede for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of His power. Keep before us the vision of Your redeemed people standing before Your throne and singing the song of victory:

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.**

Make us instruments of your peace as we share the good news of hope and new life with those around us. Guide us in utilizing all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

**Risen Lord, live in us so that we may live for you.**

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick and strengthen the faith of those who are suffering and the dying. Assure them of Your abiding presence and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

*Special Prayers and Intercessions*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## 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.

\*\*Please Be Seated\*\*

### DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#339

#### TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US



1 To - day your mer - cy calls us To wash a -  
 2 To - day your gate is o - pen, And all who  
 3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly  
 4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er



way our sin. How - ev - er great our tres - pass,  
 en - ter in Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come  
 Spir - it waits. His bless - ed an - gels gath - er  
 o - pen Door, What should we do with - out you



What - ev - er we have been, How - ev - er long from  
 And par - don for their sin. The past shall be for -  
 A - round the heav'n - ly gates. No ques - tion will be  
 When heart and eye run o'er? When all things seem a -



mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way, Your pre - cious  
 got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n, A fu - ture  
 asked us How of - ten we have come; Al - though we  
 gainst us, To drive us to de - spair, We know one



blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.  
 grace be prom - ised: A glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
 oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.  
 gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt.  
 Tune: ANTHES (76 76 D) Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857.

**\*\*Please Stand\*\***

## THE SACRAMENT

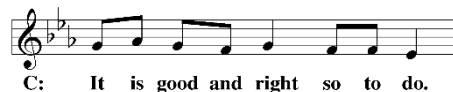
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by the resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



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

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

### O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.

**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

### DISTRIBUTION

**DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.**

**\*\*Please Stand\*\***

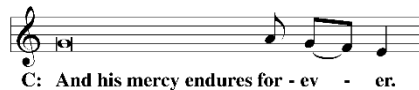
## SONG OF SIMEON

NUNC DIMITTIS



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

## CLOSING PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it, you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



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

**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

**CLOSING HYMN:**

**#536**

**LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE CHURCH'S HEAD**

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Church's head, You are her  
 2 O Lord, let this your lit - tle flock, Your name a -  
 3 Help us to serve you ev - er - more With hearts both  
 4 And for your gos - pel let us dare To sac - ri -  
 one foun - da - tion. In you she trusts, be - fore you  
 lone con - fess - ing, Con - tin - ue in your lov - ing  
 pure and low - ly. And may your Word, that light di -  
 fice all trea - sure; Teach us to bear your bless - ed  
 bows, And waits for your sal - va - tion. Built  
 care, True u - ni - ty pos - sess - ing. Your  
 vine, Shine on in splen - dor ho - ly That  
 cross, To find in you all plea - sure. Oh,  
 on this rock se - cure, Your Church shall en - dure  
 sac - ra - ments, O Lord, And your sav - ing Word  
 we re - pent - ance show, In faith ev - er grow.  
 grant us stead - fast - ness In joy and dis - tress.  
 Though all the world de - cay And all things  
 To us e'er pure re - tain. Grant that they  
 The pow'r of sin de - stroy And e - vils  
 Lord, for your mer - cy's sake, Let us by  
 pass a - way. Oh, hear, oh, hear us, Je - sus!  
 may re - main Our on - ly strength and com - fort.  
 that an - noy. Oh, make us faith - ful Chris - tians.  
 grace par - take Of end - less joy and glo - ry.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr.; tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.  
 Tune: REUTER (87 87 65 66 7) Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924.

### **WHAT WE BELIEVE:**

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, assuming His human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work, receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return, all believers will be with Him in heaven, all unbelievers will be condemned to eternal torment, and this present world will be destroyed.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pastor Out of Town:** Pastor Emmons will be out of town April 27 – May 1 for a family matter. For emergencies, please contact Elder Gene Baldwin at 541-610-9978.

**Bible Information Class:** We will begin a new class on Thursday, May 7, at 6 pm. Gene will be hosting this at his home. All are welcome to attend; you can also tune in on Zoom at the link posted for the midweek Bible Study.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** Please consider our Sunday morning adult Bible Study as we consider Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.

**Midweek Bible Study:** Our Tuesday Evening Bible Study will resume on May 5 at 6 pm at Pastor Emmons' home, located at 4927 SW Yew Pl, or you can join us on Zoom. We will finish our study of the book of Daniel.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

**Annual Voters Meeting:** Our church will conduct the annual Voters' Meeting—voting members include all our confirmed men over 18. The Voters' Meeting will be held on May 3.

**Vicar Call Day:** The Bethany Lutheran College Chapel will stream the live feed for the candidate, and vicar calls will be at 2 pm (PDT) on May 6. The link to the website is: <https://chapel.blc.edu>

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