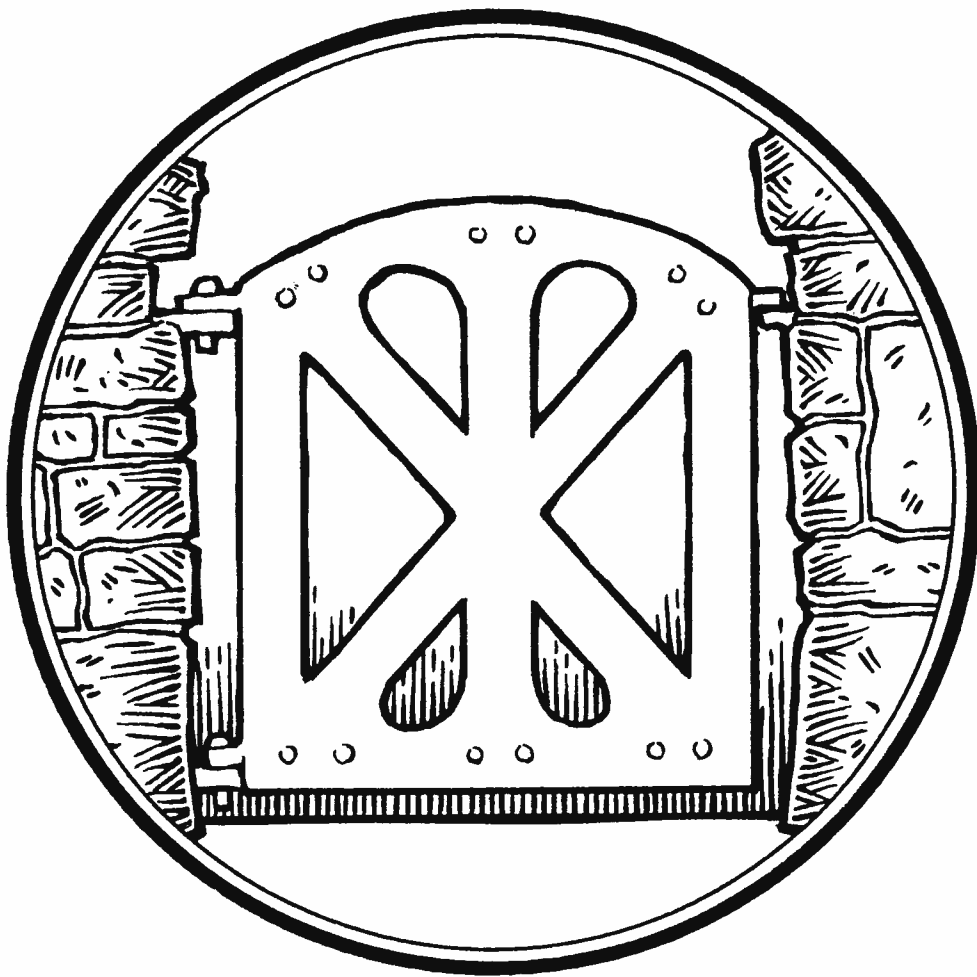


Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26 and 27, 2026



He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd



198 Westridge Ave., Burlington, Wisconsin
262-763-8229 | stjohnsburlington.org
Rev. Kirk Lahmann | Rev. Kenneth Rodrigue



Welcome to Worship

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a “Welcome to Worship” card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

Prepare for Worship

To prepare for worship, read through the service focus and the Scripture readings. Ponder the words of the Psalm of the Day. Spend time in prayer, using the prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal or on pages 255-258. For those intending to receive the Lord’s Supper, read through the “Christian Questions” on pages 295-296. Consider reading through portions of the Small Catechism on pages 286-293.

Today’s Focus for Worship – He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd

Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to choose my own direction in life. I would be terrible at it, because, like a sheep, I can generally see only what’s in front of me at the moment, and I get myself into trouble. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, I would be on my own. But Jesus lives, and it makes a difference. I have the reliable direction of the Good Shepherd. He feeds us with his Word. He protects us from the roaring lion, Satan. He is leading us into the green pastures of eternal life. For centuries, the Church has observed this Fourth Sunday of Easter to celebrate that Jesus lives to be our Good Shepherd.

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Preacher: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Accompanist: Stephen Radsek

Acknowledgments

Today’s service is adapted from *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*, © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House, p. 26 – “Service of Word and Sacrament.” Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. All rights reserved. The Prayer of the Church is reprinted from *Praying with the Readings...* © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. The Closing Collect is reprinted from *Now and Forever: Contemporary Collects...*, © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. Artwork by Ed Riojas, © higherthings.org.

Service of Word and Sacrament

Christian Worship 1993



Opening Hymn

The Lord's My Shepherd; I'll Not Want | 555
Please stand to sing the final stanza.

Invocation

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Confession and Absolution

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 32:5; Luke 18:13; 1 John 2:2; Matthew 28:19-20

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

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.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

Matthew 15:22; 17:15; Mark 10:47

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O Lord, Our Lord

Psalm 8:1; Romans 8:32; John 1:14; Psalm 24:7-10



O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.



Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa - ther, you crown our life



with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;



you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your



on - ly Son, but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. O Son of



God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther, you came to live with us;



you made your Fa - ther known; you washed us from our sins in



your own blood. You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!



O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

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 the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

I Will Live in the House of the LORD | 23-A

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” ²⁵For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:31



“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated

Hymn of the Day

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | 552

Sermon

John 10:1-10

The Gate for the Sheep

Stand

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 truly 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.

Be seated

Hymn (10:30)

The Lord's My Shepherd | 554
Sung by Grades 5-8.

Prayer of the Church

Psalm 23:1, 4

Jesus, Good Shepherd and Gate for your sheep, continue to give us life, that we may enjoy it to the full.

Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. We will fear no evil, for you are with us.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, but you have borne the iniquity of us all by laying down your life. Teach us to know your voice, that we may follow you closely, enter your gate and be saved.

Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. We will fear no evil, for you are with us.

Open the gate of your fold to other sheep. Call them also to be fed in the green pastures of your Word and refreshed with the quiet waters of your baptismal grace.

Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. We will fear no evil, for you are with us.

Bless the gatekeepers who shepherd your people with you, those who teach the young, who lead your people in worship and praise, and those who minister to the aged, sick and dying. Strengthen them with the love of your people, and through their work add to the number of those who are being saved.

Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. We will fear no evil, for you are with us.

Shepherd and Overseer of souls, return the wandering, the lost, and the doubting to you. Restore their souls and guide them again to your right paths.

Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. We will fear no evil, for you are with us.

With the compassion of a Shepherd, walk with those who go through the darkest valleys of life, sickness, despair, and even the shadow of death. With your Word, remind them of your presence and take away their fears.

Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. We will fear no evil, for you are with us.

Lord our Shepherd, in your kindness you give us all good things. Fill us with your overflowing cup, and bring us to dwell with you in your house, where you live and reign, now and forever.

Amen.

Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.

The Sacrament



Stand

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136:1

The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*

Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 118:28, 21



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

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*

John 1:29



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.

Be seated

Holy Communion Distribution

St. John's Lutheran Church practices Close Communion. We ask that only members of St. John's, or members of a church in fellowship with St. John's, come forward for Communion. Our pastoral staff would be happy to set up a time to discuss this, and any teaching of Scripture, with you.

Distribution Hymns (Sunday)

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb | 804
Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd | 757
Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep | 551

Stand

Thank the Lord

Psalm 7:17; 105:1; 118:15; Jeremiah 15:16; Isaiah 55:12



Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Closing Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd, and we follow you because we know your voice. You suffered for us, your wandering sheep, but you have brought us back to yourself, our Shepherd and overseer. For this we praise you, we follow you, and entrust ourselves to you; you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Blessing *Aaronic Benediction*

Numbers 6:24-26

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



Be seated

Closing Hymn

Christ, the Word of God Incarnate | 528:4



4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, watch - ing all your
lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,
nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good
Shep - herd, seek us, find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of
God, our shep - herd, keep us; let us hear your voice a - lone.

Text: Steven P. Mueller, b. 1964

Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinatti, 1825, ed. William Moore

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