

Sunday Worship Service – April 26, 2026

All worship words from ELW Setting Six, unless otherwise noted in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment for Reflection

Thanksgiving for Baptism ¹ (You, O God, wash us clean)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

(Pour water into the font.)

People of God, in the baptismal waters we travel with Christ from death to life. Our past, our sin, our failure, our doubt, and our shame are drowned and gone here.

You, O God, wash us clean.

Our fear, our confusion, our self-righteousness, our despair – ALL are washed away by grace.

You, O God, wash us clean.

Our pride, our hypocrisy, and other people's opinions of us no longer have the power to define us.

You, O God, give us new life.

The Spirit lives and moves through us now, a great and joyful mystery, so we may bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ.

You, O God, give us new life.

Rejoice that God has claimed us in this baptismal grace, not by our own doing or believing but by God's mercy alone.

You, O God, give us new life.

And so, as we begin worship, we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

¹ adapted by Pastor Jess Harren from original words by Pastor Michael Coffey.

<https://pastorjess.com/congregational-renewal-stories-and-resources/thanksgiving-for-baptism>

Gathering Song *"Remember and Rejoice"* #454

1. **Remember and rejoice, renewed by floods of grace.
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ, that time cannot erase.**
2. **In life, in death, we trust in God's most holy name,
forever traced by water sign, and sealed by Spirit flame.**
3. **We pledge ourselves anew to flee the lures of hell,
to cling to Christ's community, in justice, peace to dwell.**
4. **God, bless us by your grace; remind us of your care.
Renewing Spirit, fill us now, inspire our work, our prayer.**
5. **Remember and rejoice, renewed by floods of grace.
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ, that time cannot erase.**

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 (ELW page 165)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Canticle of Praise "Glory to God" (ELW page 167)

Refrain: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**

1. **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. (*Refrain*)**

2. **Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand
of the Father: receive our prayer. (Refrain)**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

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.

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough. Reading from the second chapter of Acts:

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as

the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity. A reading from the First Letter of Peter, the 2nd chapter:

Now, it is commendable if, because of one's understanding of God, someone should endure pain through suffering unjustly. But what praise comes from enduring patiently when you have sinned and are beaten for it? But if you endure steadfastly when you've done good and suffer for it, this is commendable before God.

You were called to this kind of endurance, because Christ suffered on your behalf. He left you an example so that you might follow in his footsteps. He committed no sin, nor did he ever speak in ways meant to deceive. When he was insulted, he did not reply with insults. When he suffered, he did not threaten revenge. Instead, he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He carried in his own body on the cross the sins we committed. He did this so that we might live in righteousness, having nothing to do with sin. By his wounds you were healed. Though you were like straying sheep, you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your lives.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia. Lord to Whom Shall We Go” (ELW page 171)

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. *(repeat)*

Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

The holy gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice." Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying.

So Jesus spoke again, “I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn’t listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: The Sheep Pen of Sharing

Hymn of the Day “*Good Shepherd, We Are Not Alone*”² (Hymn tune #384)

1. **Good Shepherd, we are not alone,
for you protect and love your own.
And we, responding, know your voice;
we hear you calling and rejoice.**
2. **Another shepherd might turn back
and flee at danger’s first attack;
but you laid down your very life —
a loving shepherd’s sacrifice.**
3. **A thief may well destroy and steal,
but you, Good Shepherd, save and heal.
You lead your sheep to pasture land,
to life abundant, by your hand.**
4. **You gather sheep from far and wide —
from folds we know and from outside.
One flock, one Shepherd, there will be —
a loving, blest community.**

Affirmation of Faith for Good Shepherd Sunday - This I Believe³

Let us confess our faith together using an Affirmation of Faith for Good Shepherd Sunday:

I believe I need a shepherd.

Because I am sometimes timid and other times overconfident,
because I often don't know the best path yet pretend I do,

² Text © 2012 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (www.carolynshymns.com)

³ Affirmation of Faith © 2002 Bruce D. Prewer. (www.bruceprewer.com)

because I rush into dead ends or lead others into hazardous places,
 because my brightest ideas are seamed with darkness,
 because the things I crave may not be what is good for me,
 I need a shepherd.

I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd;
 his wisdom leads me to the best opportunities,
 his word comforts me when I'm anxious or afraid,
 his arm steadies me when I feel weary and heavy-laden,
 his wounded body displays the cost of my rescue.

I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd.
 I believe that I do not find him but he finds me,
 that I under his care by virtue of sheer grace,
 the love he gives me is to be shared with others,
 that he treasures my name and prepares a place for me,
 that his fold transfixes earth and heaven.
 I trust Jesus, the good shepherd. **Amen.**

Prayer for Others for Good Shepherd Sunday ⁴

O God, our loving Shepherd,
 you come to us with the strength and love of a father,
 and the tender mercies, patience and protection of a loving mother.
 We see you in the very living of our days,
 and yet we so often fail to praise you or to offer our burdens to you.
 Hear us, Lord, as we lift to you our prayers for others and for ourselves.
 Each petition will end with "Good shepherd," and the congregational
 response "**hear our prayer.**"

We pray for those in need—those who hunger or are homeless.
 We pray for those in pain—the abused, brokenhearted and lonely.
 We pray for the sick in body and in mind, and for those who grieve.
 For the life of this community and all those who put their trust in you
 for all their todays and all their tomorrows,
 we pray that your lovingkindness to the world would be offered
 through our hands, our words, our deeds, our hearts. Good shepherd, **hear
 our prayer.**

Free us, Lord, as your own people,
 to sing your praise in the work of our everyday lives.

⁴ *Prayer for Others for Good Shepherd Sunday* posted on **Life in Liturgy**, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). (<https://lifeinliturgy.wordpress.com>)

In those comings and goings of our simple and complicated living,
make us instruments of your peace and grace
in weary days with weary people. Good shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us
into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before
us and fill our cups to overflowing. Good shepherd, **hear our prayer.**

Bless our memories, O God, that in our remembering we may
partake of the mystery that is eternal life in its fullness.
For we pray in the presence of your risen Christ,
our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

Offering / Offering Prayer

(An Offering Plate is placed on the Altar)

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us
with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and
generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Preface

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus (ELW page 173)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

O God most mighty, O God most merciful,
O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void,
you formed order and beauty.

When Abraham and Sarah were barren,
you sent them a child;

When the Israelites were enslaved,
you led them to freedom.

Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for
healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.

He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city.

With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

Amen.

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

Amen.

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

Amen.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
 O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
 O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
 O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
 O God our strength and our song,
 you show us a vision of a tree of life
 with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
 Grant us such life,
 the life of the Father to the Son,
 the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
 life in you, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Those Communing online are invited to eat the bread and drink the wine/juice.

The congregation is ushered forward to receive the elements.

Lamb of God (ELW page 174)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Hymn during Communion "The Lord's My Shepherd" #778

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.
 He leadeth me, 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;
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;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.**
4. **My table thou hast richly spread in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.
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;
and in God's house forevermore my dwelling-place shall be.**

Hymn during Communion "Let Us Break Bread Together" #471

1. **Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.**

*Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

2. **Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. *(Refrain)***
3. **Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. *(Refrain)***

Communion Blessing

May the precious body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in his grace now, and unto life everlasting.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

Benediction Song “*May the Grace of Christ Attend Us*” (#963 Voices United)

**May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.**

Commission

Go in peace, inspired by the risen Christ to love and serve.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude – Beth Hendricksen