



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26 2026 | 8:00 AND 10:30 AM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen! During the Easter Season, we celebrate resurrection—the resurrection of Jesus as well as our own. We are God's new creation, filled with the undying life of our Savior. As the Spirit fills the Church on Pentecost, this life invigorates God's people for mission and ministry. *This is Part 5 of a year-long series, "A Year in Matthew."*

P Pastor **C** Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.



Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.
We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 740 "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS *1 John 1:8-9*

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

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

EASTER GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

- P** [Jesus said:] I am the good shepherd.
C I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.
P Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
C let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
P Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
C let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
P For the LORD is a great God,
C and a great King above all gods.
P Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
C let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
P For he is our God,
C and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
C 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 [Jesus said:] I am the good shepherd.
C I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

HYMN OF PRAISE “This Is the Feast”

Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9; for text and tune, see page 155.

Refrain: (sing) This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

- C** Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia. *Refrain*

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P 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.



C A - men.

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Exodus 15:2*

C The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.



We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

FIRST READING *Acts 2:42-47*

The early Christ-followers devote themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, worship, and prayer.

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Peter 2:19–25*

Although we strayed from God by our sinful disobedience, Jesus’ suffering and death on our behalf have brought us back to the loving care of our Good Shepherd.

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

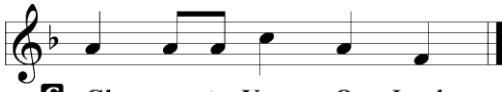
ALLELUIA AND VERSE *John 6:68; for text and tune, see page 156.*

G (sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:1–14*

Jesus speaks of the value of each member of the kingdom of heaven. God the Father, pictured as a shepherd, rejoices over every lost sheep that is rescued and welcomed home.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the

temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in

heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN 866

“Lord Jesus Christ, the Children’s Friend”

SERMON *Called to Live:*

“Living in the Shepherd’s Care”

Ministry Expansion Campaign Focus: **“Together in Life.”** Young and old, lifelong Christians or new believers, we are brought together under the care of our loving Shepherd.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Martin Luther’s explanation of the Second Article of the Apostle’s Creed

G I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering (10:30 am):

SOLO *“He Shall Feed His Flock” by John Ness Beck, arr. Craig Courtney*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The 8:00 am service concludes with the Lord's Prayer, Benediction, Easter Greeting, and Closing Hymn 922, "Go, My Children, with My Blessing."



We receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation
as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

The 10:30 am service continues with the Preface on page 160 in the hymnal.

We believe that in the Lord's Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord's Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail; please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

For those who require it, diluted wine is found in the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups; gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

HYMN 725 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

HYMN 605 "Father Welcomes"

HYMN 711 "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"



Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship of our everyday lives, ready to be God's witnesses and do His will.

The service concludes with the Post-Communion Canticle (“Thank the Lord”), Post-Communion Collect, and Benediction on pages 164–166.

EASTER GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CLOSING HYMN 922 *“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

- P** Go in peace; serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God!

This week’s takeaway: In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus answers his disciples’ question, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He points to children and lost sheep: the greatest are the dependent—those the world sees as the least. Our Father in heaven and His Son, the Good Shepherd, reveal this divine reality: the greatest in our midst are those who need the most care, and through Christ’s Body, the Church, they receive it.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*
Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*
Katie Drefs, *Organist*
Elaina Rankin, *Soloist (10:30 am)*
Quinn Marsh, Benjamin Kuecker, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*
Jacob Matisko, Evan Rankin, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*
Kathy Schnakenberg, *Greeter (8:00 am)*
Tim & Karen Bauer, *Greeters (10:30 am)*
Tim Bauer, Mark Heins, Russ Kruse, *Elders on Duty*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please contact the church office to keep our prayer list up-to-date.

Our pastor "on call" number in case of emergency is (660) 580-5483.

New: Addie Ziegelbein, Rollie Beerman, Donald Dedেকে, Virgil Gramenz, Hudson Kloos, Nicole Maxwell, Richard Cordes, Alan Luebbert, Lisa Arnett, Ron Roepe, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos, Susan Reeves

Ongoing: Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Diane Stumpfenhaus, Ken Wodrich, Les Bruns, Wilmer Bredehoeft, Melba Poese, Bridget Kageman, Paul Brackman, Baby Felix, Gene Virus, Harry Rehkop, Nolan Kirby, Jon Spells, Joe Connell, Roger Kammeyer, Ledrue Brandt, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Alice Hildebrand, Donnie Fiene, Rev. Perry Copus, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Amy Gerdts, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Lari Huntze, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Birth: Clyde Vernon Stuenkel, son of Clint & Sarah Stuenkel

Death: Dannie Griffit, father of Brenda Brackman; Mary Kay Anderson, mother of Mary Beth Self

Nation and World: the people of Sweden

Partners in Mission: St. Paul Lutheran Church; Jackson, MO and Rev. Joshua Schmidt; Heit's Point

Birthdays: (4/26) Vanessa Rodewald, Mary Schlueter; (4/27) Tim Bergman, Spencer Duncan, Tatyana Torno; (4/28) Corbin Faris, Donnie Hemme, Rosalie Pennington; (4/29) Rebecca Inman, Don Schlesselman; (4/30) Katie Waller; (5/2) Trisha Boland, Jodi Colwell, Deanna Inman, Aurora Jones, Bryce Lange, Adelyn Meineka, Shania Mills, Jonathan Self

Anniversaries: (4/26) Gary & Connie Martens; (4/29) Chris & Carista Kuecker, Dennis & Debbie Meyer; (4/30) Donald & Mina Phillips

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60; 1 Peter 2:2–10; Matthew 12:1–21

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 477, 667, 594 (*My First Hymnal* 118), 411 (*My First Hymnal* 56), 687, 861 (*My First Hymnal* 92), 685



"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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