

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

April 26, 2026 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Wes Smith, Associate Pastor
Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation
ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion.

The prelude is the beginning of the worship service.

It is a time to focus our hearts and minds in preparation for worship.

Please refrain from loud conversations while the prelude music is playing.

PRELUDE

- ☐ ALLELUIA! Christ is risen!
☑ **Christ is risen indeed! ALLELUIA!**

WELCOME

11:00—CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand as you are able

EASTER LITANY

- ☐ Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
☑ **Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!**
☐ Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys.
☑ **Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!**
☐ Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
☑ **Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!**
☐ We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.
☑ **Amen.**

EXCHANGING THE PEACE *We share a sign of God's peace.*

- ☐ The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.
☑ **And also with you.**

GATHERING HYMN *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* *ELW Hymn 362, sts. 1-4, 7*
Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.

APOSTOLIC 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *This is the Feast* *ELW pg. 140*

Refrain—This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. to Refrain
Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. to 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. to Refrain
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. to 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.**

Please be seated.

READING **1 Peter 2:19-25**

see insert page 5

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Be Not Afraid*

ELW Hymn 388

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications. Used by permission. OneLicense #A-701929

GOSPEL **John 10:1-10**

see insert page 5

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Wes

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need*

ELW Hymn 782

Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.

8:30-OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES CREED

☞ Let us profess our baptismal faith together.

☞ **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

11:00-AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Jack Dean Gundersen, Erin Elizabeth Gambrel, Breanna Whitley Broadwell
Harper Anne McCumber, Reagan Anne Harris, Elizabeth Brooke Cunningham

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the petition concludes "Merciful God," please respond, "Receive our prayer." The prayers are ended with these words, "God of resurrection power, ... through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior." Please respond, "Amen."

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Vacation Bible School

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Link to give: <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

We now dedicate the financial gifts we offer to the Lord and the Lord's agenda, gifts either already given online, or before or after the service in the offering box. Likewise, we prayerfully consider the ways we offer ourselves to God's kingdom throughout the whole week.



MUSICAL OFFERING *11:00-We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder, Daniel Kallman* *Sanctuary Choir*
Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY *Now the Green Blade Rises* *ELW Hymn 379, st. 1*

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been; love is come again like wheat arising green.**

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols* © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense #A-701929

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,
C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts. **C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.** *—ELW page 144*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Please approach the altar using the diagonal aisles and return by the side or middle aisles. You will be offered a wafer, which you may dip in the chalice of wine, or you may choose a packaged cup with grape juice and a gluten-free wafer.
Please indicate to the ushers if you need to have communion brought to you.*

COMMUNION HYMN *O Jesus, I Have Promised* *ELW Hymn 810*

- 1** **O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**
- 2** **Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.**
- 3** **Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.**

Continues next page.

**4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.
Text in the public domain.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
G Amen

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *In Peace We Now Depart*

COS Setting

**In peace we now depart, your Word has fed my soul. Joyfully we go into the world.
Help us sing your praise. Help us do your work. Send us out, Lord, to spread your Love.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P** Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,
G Amen.

BLESSING

- P** God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, + bless you now and forever.
G Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

ELW Hymn 543

Please use either the red hymnal in the pew rack or the LED projection screens for the music and words.

SENDING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
G Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
P Praise the Lord! Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
G Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Acknowledgements.

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Altar Guild: Carol Talbott

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Debra Neu, Chip Beard, Jaycine Lester (11:00) Confirmands

Lector: (8:30) Sue Blackburn (11:00) Confirmands

Tech Team: (8:30) Chris Gritti, Davida Kilgore (11:00) Kendra Campbell-Milbrun, Joni Siefert, Brad Milburn

Ushers: (8:30) Stephen Gundersen, Bob Spruck (11:00) Ethan Miller, Paul Talbott

This week's altar flowers are given by Carol Jensen-Linton in celebration of 30 years of service at New Neighbors League and her retirement from there.

THE LESSONS

Sunday, April 26

READING 1 Peter 2:19-25

Ⓐ The second reading is from first Peter, the 2nd chapter.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

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

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Ⓐ Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Ⓒ **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL John 10:1-10

Ⓐ The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.

Ⓒ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Ⓐ The Gospel of the Lord.

Ⓒ **Praise to you, O Christ.**