

AS A SHEPHERD SEEKS OUT HIS FLOCK
WHEN HE IS AMONG HIS SHEEP
THAT HAVE BEEN SCATTERED, SO WILL I SEEK OUT MY SHEEP,
AND I WILL RESCUE THEM FROM ALL PLACES
WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN SCATTERED
**ON A DAY OF CLOUDS
AND THICK DARKNESS.**

EZEKIEL 34:12

Sunday, April 26, 2026

The Fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday

Service Theme

HE LIVES TO BE MY GOOD SHEPHERD

Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would have to choose our own direction in life. We would be terrible at it, because, like sheep, we can generally see only what's in front of us at the moment, and we get ourselves into trouble. It is especially difficult for us to look far into our future as planned by Jesus. If he had not risen from the dead, we would be on our own. But he lives, and it makes a difference. We 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. Jesus lives to be our Good Shepherd.



Divine Word

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685 Through Simple Water, Drawn and Poured CW 685



1 Through sim - ple wa - ter, drawn and poured, u - nit - ed
 2 There at the font with prom - ise true God brings his
 3 My sin - ful self was cru - ci - fied with Christ, as
 4 From that day on God helps me drown the sin - ful
 5 When doubts a - rise, when sin as - sails, the pow'r of



with his pow'r - ful Word, in bap - tism Je - sus sets us
 sav - ing grace a - new— the sin - in - fect - ed soul he
 if I, too, had died; and as he rose, I al - so
 self and hold it down. I am made new; I'm born a -
 bap - tism nev - er fails. "I am bap - tized! What should I



free from sin's dread pow'r and slav - er - y.
 heals and all his par - d'ning love re - veals!
 rise to live with strength that he sup - plies.
 gain, re - pent - ing, trust - ing, serv - ing him.
 fear? God's love for me is al - ways near!"

Text: Nicolaus Selnecker, 1532–1592, abr.; tr. Mark G. Schroeder, b. 1954
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug
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 Tune: Public domain

The Service *Holy Baptism (page 151)*

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death.

It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts,
words, and actions.**

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a
sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism for Paul Jonathan Sawatzky

Do you believe that you were born in sin and therefore eternally lost?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe that the triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—planned and carried out your salvation?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe that God grants you the forgiveness of sins in Holy Baptism?

Yes, I believe.

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

Yes, I do.

Do you desire to be baptized into the Christian faith?

Yes, I do.

Paul Jonathan Sawatzky, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received *Paul* as your own child and made *him* a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to *him* and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

551 Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

CW 551



1 Je - sus, shep - herd of the sheep, who your
2 In your prom - ise firm we stand, none can
3 By your blood our souls were bought, by your
4 Fa - ther, draw us to your Son; we with
5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, join th'as -



Fa - ther's flock does keep, safe we wake and
take us from your hand; speak— we hear— at
life sal - va - tion wrought; by your light our
joy will fol - low on till the work of
sem - bly of the blest, gath - ered to e -



safe we sleep, guard - ed still by you.
your com - mand, we will fol - low you.
feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.
grace is done, there to live with you.
ter - nal rest in the fold with you.

Text: Henry Cook, 1788–1868, alt. Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804–1876. Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Amen.

The Service

Service of Word and Prayer (page 266)

I rejoiced with those who said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,

to all who call on him in truth.

Time of Easter

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us

so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins

and was raised to life for our justification.

Death has been swallowed up in victory!

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:19–25

St. Peter calls on us to follow our Shepherd and Overseer even if it means we will suffer for doing good.

¹⁹For this is favorable: if a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly because he is conscious of God. ²⁰For 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.

²¹Indeed, you were called to do this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you would follow in his steps. ²²He did not commit a sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. ²³When 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. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

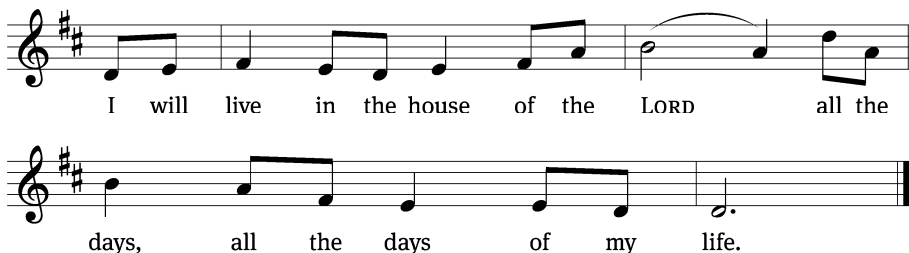
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

23A I Will Live in the House of the LORD


Psalm 23A

Refrain



I will live in the house of the LORD all the
days, all the days of my life.

Tone



The LORD is my / shepherd,

I lack / nothing.

He makes me lie down in green / pastures,

he leads me beside quiet / waters,

he refreshes / my soul.

He guides me along the right paths 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 your goodness and love will follow me all the days /
of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for- / ever.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Gospel

John 10:1–10

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is the gate through which we enter the green pastures of salvation.

¹“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. ²The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The doorkeeper opens the door 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 sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this illustration in speaking to the people, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷So Jesus said again, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: I am the door for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

¹⁰“A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

552 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

CW 552



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 Sav - ior gent - ly leads me, and where the ver - dant
 yet in love he sought me and on his shoul - der
 you, dear Lord, be - side me, your rod and staff my



I am his, and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feeds me.
 gent - ly laid and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, your cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 You spread a table in my sight,
 a banquet here bestowing;
 your oil of welcome, my delight;
 my cup is overflowing!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
 your goodness fails me never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
 within your house forever!

Sermon

Ezekiel 34:11–16a

¹¹For this is what the LORD God says. Here I am. I myself will seek the welfare of my flock and carefully search for them. ¹²As a shepherd searches for his flock when his sheep that were with him have been scattered, so I will search for my flock and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own soil. I will shepherd them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys, and in all the settlements of the land. ¹⁴I will lead them into good pasture, and their grazing land will be on the high mountains of Israel. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and they will pasture on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will shepherd my flock. I myself will let them lie down, declares the LORD God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost. I will bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured. I will strengthen the weak.

Jesus is our loving Shepherd-King

- 1) Who seeks after his scattered, scared sheep.
- 2) Who fulfills his promises and grants us peace.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

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

804 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

CW 804



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb; ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, e - ven now the



heart I am, for my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



knows my need and well pro - vides me, loves me ev - 'ry
in - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; when I thirst, he
by his an - gel host 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, 1724–1782; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Choral-Buch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, Leipzig, 1784. Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;

in your faithfulness and righteousness, come to my relief.

Spare us, Lord, from the lies of the devil and the attacks of our conscience. Comfort and save us in your patient compassion.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.

Guide us, Lord, to the wisdom of your Word and the power of your promises. Take away our confusion and doubt.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.

Hear us, Lord, when we come to you in prayer. Make us confident to take you at your word and to follow you in faith.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.

Empower us, Lord, to walk in your ways and live in your truth. Fill us with your love, that we may love you and one another.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.

Time of Easter

Almighty God, by the death of your Son you conquered sin, and by his resurrection you restored our innocence and gave us everlasting life. Fill our hearts with steadfast faith that we may daily serve you in your kingdom and praise and thank you always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

625 Splendor and Honor

CW 625



- 1 Splen - dor and hon - or, maj - es - ty and pow - er, are yours, O
- 2 Praised be the true Lamb, slain for our re - demp - tion, by whose self -
- 3 To the Al - might - y, throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor, and to the



Lord God, fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, for by your bid - ding
of - f'ring we are made God's peo - ple: a priest - ly king - dom,
Sav - ior, Christ our Lamb and Shep - herd, be ad - o - ra - tion,



was the whole cre - a - tion called in - to be - ing.
from all tongues and na - tions, called to God's ser - vice.
praise, and glo - ry giv - en, now and for - ev - er.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944Tune: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

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Acknowledgments

Service of Word and Prayer from Christian Worship

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Announcements

Church Cleaners

May 3 – Mark / May 10 – Thomas

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (26) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**
10:30 am Worship
11:45 am Coffee Hour
12:00 am Evangelism Meeting
- Tu (28) 7:00 pm Council Meeting
- We (29) 7:00 pm Communicating Christ
- Fr (1) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study
- Su (3) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**
10:30 am Worship (with Communion)
11:45 am First Fellowship
12:00 pm Divine Sisters
3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore
4:00 pm Youth Confirmation in Poltimore
- Tu (5) 7:00 pm Communicating Christ
- Fr (8) 3:00 pm Women's Bible Study
6:00 pm Friday Fellowship
- Su (10) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**
10:30 am Worship
11:45 am Coffee Hour