



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about **“Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.”**

If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don’t hesitate to ask a question. There will be the celebration of Holy Communion in the **10:30a.m. service** today. If you are not a member of Grace and desire to commune, please speak with the pastor **before the service**. If you are physically unable to commune at the altar, the pastor would be happy to serve you in your pew. Please, notify an usher before the service begins.

THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026

Today in Worship

One of the longest lasting of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World was the Pharos Lighthouse that was constructed at the entry of the harbor of Alexandria, Egypt, in the third century BC. Although weakened by a series of earthquakes, it remained standing in part until AD 1480. Initially, its source of light was the brightness of the sun reflected in a great mirror by day and the flames of a great wood fire reflected by the same mirror at night. The gradual disintegration of the tower, initially some 330 feet in height, finally extinguished its light. As He spoke with His disciples, Jesus described Himself as the light that never will be extinguished. John reports: “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life’” (John 8:12). On our journey through this dark world, we are blessed to have the light of Christ as our unfailing guide. It truly is the light no darkness can overcome.



Ringling of the Bells

Announcements (10:30am Service)

Welcome

Opening Hymn

*Lutheran Service Book #735
“Have No Fear, Little Flock”*

Invocation & Sentences

Ps. 16:1-2, 5-6, 9, 11

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

C Amen.

P Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.

C I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You.”

P The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.

C The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

P Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

C You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Confession & Absolution

P LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

C You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

P You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

C You covered all their sin.

P Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

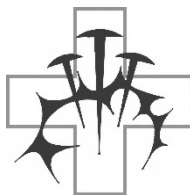
C and grant us Your salvation.

P Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

C Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, mighty Judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have not lived up to our calling as Your peaceable people. We have not extended ourselves to bring Your peace in our homes, our neighborhoods, and our communities. We have not done the good You demand and have not been the people You would have us be. We do repent and are truly sorry for our sins in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on us, merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Forgive us all that needs Your forgiving grace and with the power of the Holy Spirit

direct us to serve You faithfully all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P God has promised His merciful forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in confession. He will revive them and speak peace to His people. In His stead and by His command, therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C Amen.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Psalm 23

P The Lord is my shepherd;

C I shall not want.

P He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C He leads me beside still waters.

P He restores my soul.

**C He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**

P Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

C your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

P You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;

C you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,

**C and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.**

**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.**

Hymn of Praise

Lutheran Service Book #710

"The Lord's My Shepherd I'll Not Want"

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. 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 **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

"The life of the first Christians includes learning and fellowship."

L The First Reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is from Acts, chapter two.

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

“Christ, who suffered for us, sets an example for us.”

L The Epistle Reading is from First Peter, chapter two.

¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For 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.

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

²³ When 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. ²⁴ He 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. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Romans 6:9; John 20:29b

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C **I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

John 10:1-10

“Jesus says He is the gate of the sheep.”

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When

he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Apostles Creed *8:00am service*

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He shall 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.

The Nicene Creed *10:30am service*

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven. And sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Message for Children from God's Word

Hymn of the Day

*Lutheran Service Book #709
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Responses after each petition:

P ...let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

The prayers conclude:

Sanctus <i>“Holy, Holy, Holy”</i>	LSB p. 161
Lord’s Prayer <i>Spoken</i>	LSB p. 162
The Words of our Lord <i>Spoken</i>	LSB p. 162
Pax Domini <i>“The Peace of Our Lord”</i>	LSB p. 163
Agnus Dei <i>“Lamb of God”</i>	LSB p. 163

Distribution Hymns

<i>“If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death”</i>	LSB # 486
<i>“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”</i>	LSB # 475
<i>“The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns”</i>	LSB # 532

Thank the Lord	LSB p. 164
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The Closing Prayer

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, You have protected Your flock by Your death and resurrection and have nurtured the faith within us. Grant us such faith that we always listen to Your voice and follow You in paths of righteousness, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction	Numbers 6:24-26
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P The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Greeting of Peace

Closing Hymn

*Lutheran Service Book #711
“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*



Grace

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