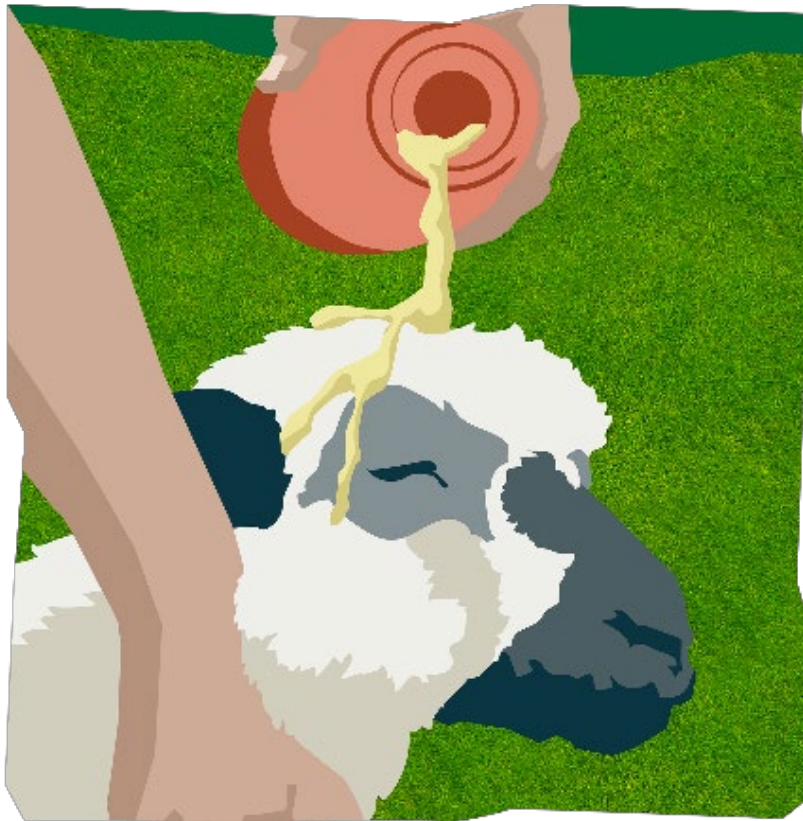


ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

April 25-26, 2026

4:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

EASTER LIGHT – GUIDING LIGHT

AS WE GATHER

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.

✂ PREPARATION ✂

Prelude "Sheep May Safely Graze" (from Cantata 208) J.S. Bach

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" LSB 711

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✂ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 16:1–2, 5–6, 9, 11*

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

People: I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You."

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

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

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

People: 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 AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 85:1–2, 7*

Pastor: LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

People: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

People: You covered all their sin.

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: and grant us Your salvation.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins unto our gracious Lord.

People: 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.

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you in ways of peace and joy, and finally bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The one who
enters by the
gate is the
shepherd of
the **sheep.**

JOHN 10:2



KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

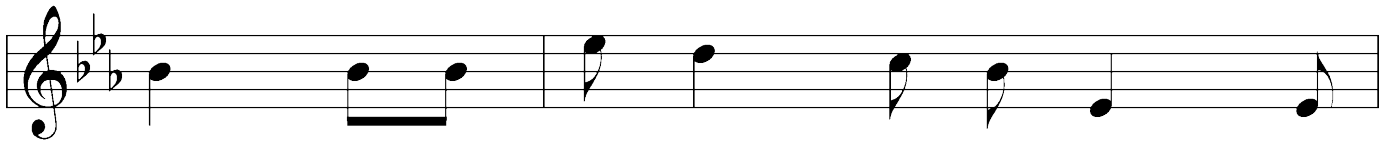
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

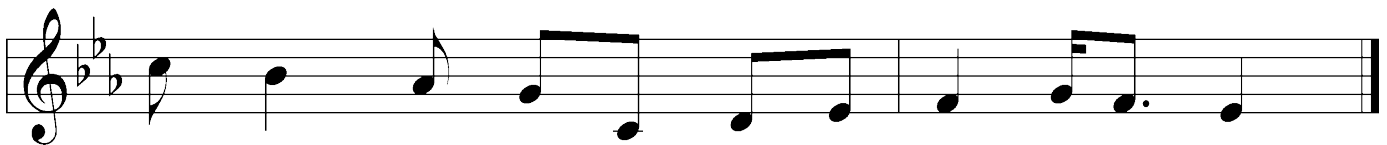
People: **Amen.**



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; Have no fear, lit - tle
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; Have good cheer, lit - tle
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; Praise the Lord high a -
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; Thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, For the Fa - ther has cho - sen To
 flock, For the Fa - ther will keep you In
 bove, For He stoops down to heal you, Up -
 God, For He stays close be - side you, In



give you the King - dom; Have no fear, lit - tle flock!
 His love for - ev - er; Have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
 lift and re - store you; Praise the Lord high a - bove!
 all things works with you; Thank - ful hearts raise to God!

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✠ WORD ✠

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

(The life of the first Christians includes learning and fellowship.)

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

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Pastor: I am the good shepherd.
I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

**People: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Pastor: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

**People: For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.**

Pastor: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

**People: For He is our God,
and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.**

**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.**

Pastor: I am the good shepherd.
I know My own and My own know Me, and I lay down My life for the sheep.

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25

(Christ, who suffered for us, sets an example for us.)

For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 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. 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. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 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. 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. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE *Romans 6:9; John 10:14*

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

People: Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me. Alleluia.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: John 10:1-10

(Jesus says He is the gate of the sheep.)

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. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day "Lead Me, Guide Me"

LSB 721

Sermon "Leader or Follower?"

Pastor John Larson

Text: John 10:1-10

THE NICENE CREED

(found on the back cover of the hymnal)

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

People: Hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!



Offering *(4:00 pm – collected in the back; 8:00 – collected in the pews)*

Offering Music (8:00) "Loving Shepherd of the Sheep"

Michael Burkhardt
Ascension Chorale

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 160

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is truly good, wholesome, and proper that we give thanks to You, our gracious heavenly Father, for in Your goodness You have given Your only-begotten Son for our salvation. By the guiding of Your Spirit, direct our ways that we may follow the Good Shepherd through all of our lives so that we may be gathered at the Table which He has prepared before us. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in the green pastures of Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever, as we join with the saints in heaven and on earth and sing:

Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 161

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: **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.**

Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting One)

LSB 163

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Organ Music (4:00) "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

Paul Manz

Special Piano Music (8:00) "River Flows in You"

Yiruma
Diana Gaide, pianist

Hymn "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" LSB 685

Hymn "I Am Jesus Little Lamb" LSB 740

General Communion Blessing

Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen

Closing Hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" LSB 739

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Toccata Brevis" Ovid Young

SERVING IN WORSHIP

OFFICIANT / PREACHER	Pastor John Larson
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST	Michael Zehnder
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Stephanie Roettjer
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST AND PIANIST	Diana Gaide
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER	Ann Kirkpatrick
AGAPE PRAISE TEAM LEADER	Michael Zehnder
ELDERS	4:00 pm Jeff Dunker; 8:00 am Arvin Michel; 10:30 am Michael Lawrenz
ACOLYTE	8:00 am Lizzie Wilson; 10:30 am Maria Olson
LECTORS	4:00 pm Dave Olsson; 8:00 am Lisa Wert; 10:30 am Lisa O'Neal
COMMUNION SERVERS	4:00 pm Dave Olsson; 10:30 am Lisa O'Neal
ALTAR GUILD	Tanya Schmitt, Charmaine Rohde



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Ascension Lutheran Church
1701 West Caley Avenue, Littleton, Colorado 80120
www.alutheran.org
(303) 794-4636 office@alutheran.org
Extended Day Preschool
303-730-2514 director@alcpreschool.com