

# *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

## *Good Shepherd Sunday*



Sacrament of Holy Communion

April 26, 2026

8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

*St. James Lutheran Church*

109 York Street, Gettysburg, PA

[www.StJamesGettysburg.org](http://www.StJamesGettysburg.org)

## Welcome to St. James. Here are some tips for worshipping with us.

Large print bulletins and hearing-assist devices can be found on the welcome table in the main hall. Please stand as you are able for parts of the service noted with an asterisk (\*). Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

In this bulletin, ELW# refers to hymns in the back half of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (cranberry color). ACS# refers to hymns in the back half of *All Creation Sings* (purple color). Both books are found in the chair rack in front of you. Other symbols used throughout this bulletin:

**P** Presider    **C** Congregation    **A** Assisting Minister    **L** Lay Reader

The 8:15 worship service will be livestreamed to our YouTube Channel and made available for public viewing. Please note that you may be recorded during worship. You can visit our YouTube Channel at [StJamesGettysburg.org/YouTube](http://StJamesGettysburg.org/YouTube). If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with a member of the staff.

The Paschal Candle was lit for the first time on Easter Eve and remains lit during the Easter Season to show the presence of the risen Christ among his people. Thereafter, it is lit at baptisms and funerals as a sign of dying and rising with Christ, of our death and his life.

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## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

#### \*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**P** Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

**P** Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*). Blessed are you.

**C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P** Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P** Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P** Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

\*GATHERING HYMN: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

ELW 807

\*PASTORAL GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*All sing the refrain; the choir sings the verses.*

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

*Cantor*

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God. *Refrain*

2 Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new.

*Refrain*

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L** *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.

**C** Amen.

## CHOIR ANTHEM

(8:15) *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

William Bradley Roberts

<sup>1</sup>Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care. In thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! You have bought us, thine we are. Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! You have bought us, thine we are. <sup>2</sup>Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will; do thou, Lord, our only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill. Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still. Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jessu! Thou hast loved us, love us still. (Dorothy Ann Thrupp)

(10:45) *Nada Me Falta*

Mark Sedio

El Señor es mi pastor, nada me falta. <sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; you make me lie down in green pastures. To cool, fresh, clear water you lead me to drink: my suffering soul you revive. <sup>2</sup>You guide me along the pathway of life, though death's fearful darkness surrounds me. Your loving hand chases the evil away; your staff and your crook are my guide. <sup>3</sup>A table you set in the sight of my foes, you anoint me with rich smelling fragrance. My cup overflows with such bountiful gifts; such wonderful kindness to me. <sup>4</sup>Your goodness, mercy shall follow me all the days I am living. In your safe, strong dwelling my home shall be for now and the rest of my life. (Ps. 23 paraphrase, Mark Sedio)

## FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**P** The word of the Lord.**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23

Forest Green

1 As faithful shepherds tend their flocks,  
So God will care for me;  
And from God's store of grace my needs  
Are met abundantly.  
In pastures green, by waters still,  
My soul new life does take;  
And in the paths of righteousness  
I follow, for God's sake.

2 When death surrounds I will not fear,  
God's strength dispels my dread;  
I hold God's blessing in my heart  
And face my fear instead.  
For as a lamb, my comfort rests  
Upon the Shepherd's rod,  
To bring me home, where'er I stray  
Into the fold of God.

3 A bounteous feast for me is placed  
In presence of my foes;  
My head with oil the Lord anoints,  
My cup with grace o'erflows.  
The loving-kindness of the Lord  
Is mine for all my days;  
And in God's house for evermore  
I'll join the songs of praise.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**P** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

tune, *Gelobt sei Gott*

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
and sing today with one accord,  
the life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

\*HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> "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. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

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

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON, FOLLOWED BY TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

\*HYMN OF THE DAY: *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

ELW 764

\*APOSTLES' CREED

**C** 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.

\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Petitions conclude: "Merciful God," Our response: "receive our prayer."

\*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

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*Meal*

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING: *The Lord's My Shepherd*

setting, John Carter

\*OFFERTORY

tune, *Lasst uns erfreuen*

Adoring praises now we bring  
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father, and our Lord,  
to Spirit blest, most holy God,  
all the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

\*OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

**C** 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, Amen.

\*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

\*PREFACE AND CANTICLE

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

\*INVITATION

**P** Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

*All are welcome at Christ's table. Come one, come all, the feast is spread! An usher will give you a cup and guide you toward the platform. During the continuous flow, please fill in spaces starting at the front of the platform completing the circle. We offer a chalice with grape juice first, followed by a chalice of wine. Please indicate your preference by extending your glass at the appropriate time. Rice crackers are available for those with gluten allergies. If you are unable to come forward, please alert an usher and you will receive the sacrament while seated.*

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ELW 502

\*TABLE BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A** *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,

**C** **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.

**C** Amen.

\*SENDING HYMN: *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*

ELW 544

\*DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: *Fugue in B-flat Major*

J.S. Bach

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Portions of the liturgy are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. “Now the Feast and Celebration” © 1990 GIA Publications. “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” © 1990 Augsburg Fortress. “Nada Me Falta” © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Gospel Acclamation from “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing” text © 1958, ren. 1986 Hymns Ancient and Modern, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Offertory from “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Print and streaming permissions granted by Augsburg Fortress License #SAS024997, CCLI License #2678434, and OneLicense.net #A-707473.

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*The Flowers are Given to the Glory of God and*

In loving memory of my husband, Milton Nicks, by his wife Barbara.

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*Lift Up in Prayer*

Taylor Balderas

Helen Bardell

Roger Benner

George Bielen

Jim Bixler

Barbara Braband

Debby Brown

Rick Buck

Jim Caler

David Chapman

Judy Coup

Rhea Crowell

Joanne Fisher

Tim Fleming

Erin Freeman

Caleb Freeman

Patricia Gallian

Linda Golden & Family

Elaine Hess Strite

Ruth Hess

Karen Holtzworth

William Kessler

Grace Kreider

Sam & Ed Main

Chelli McLaughlin

Raymond McMaster

Jim McMaster

Jen Mickelson

Becky Nelson

Harold & Mindy Plank

Charlie Raffensperger

Brantley Roser

Anne Rost

Selene Scavitto

Lisa Sites

Lou Shuba

Ian Shoop

John Steinberger

Michelle Steinberger

Mary Stevenson

Gretchen Walker

Cheryl Weaver

Aimee

Al

Avery

Beverly  
Bill  
Daniel  
Dennis  
Jake

Jane  
Josh & Lindsey  
Leslie  
Scott  
Sean

Sue  
Tiffany  
Wayne  
Wesley  
Will

We pray for the family and friends of Dave Crowner and Jack Crist, who recently died. May they find comfort and peace in the promise of your eternal kingdom.

We pray for our youth and volunteers that are attending the High School Retreat this weekend. May they stay safe in their travels, make memories that last a lifetime, and allow their faith in You to continue to grow.

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## *Announcements*

**Common Ground Recovery Ministry** – All are welcome to join us @ 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room on the 1st Monday of each month. **Our next service is Monday 5/4/26!**

**Bible Study with Pastor Andrew** - Join us Thursday mornings at 10 am. We meet in the Gathering Area and are studying “The Separation of Church & Hate” by John Fugelsang. Please obtain a copy of the book for yourself. If obtaining a book is difficult for you, please speak with Pastor Andrew. All are welcome!



**Sign-up for our weekly eBlast to always know what's happening at St. James!**

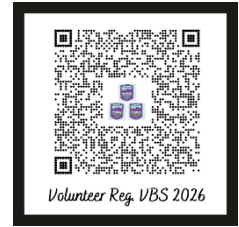
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**Save-the-Date for VBS** - June 8-12 from 9AM - 11:45AM, at St. James Lutheran Church in partnership with Christ Lutheran. Use the QR codes to register your youth for VBS today, or to sign up as a volunteer!



**Flower Coordinator needed** - We are looking for volunteers to coordinate the altar flowers. Dee Wells and Judy Seilhamer will be “retiring” from this task and would like to train 2 volunteers to take over. If you are interested, please reach out to Julie in the church office:

[jalbert@stjamesgettysburg.org](mailto:jalbert@stjamesgettysburg.org)

**Camp Nawakwa Sign Ups** – It’s once again time to sign-up for camp. Many St. James youth participate in camps at Nawakwa (or Kirkenwald). Tiered registration fees and financial discounts are available! Please reach out to Mr. Adam or the staff at Nawakwa with any questions about camp.

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study** – We will be covering the book of 1 Thessalonians and be meeting on Wednesdays through May 13, from 7:15-8:15 pm. Please join us in the library and contact Lucinda Bringman ([lbringman3742@gmail.com](mailto:lbringman3742@gmail.com)) if you are interested in participating.

**Youth Group Update** – There is no middle or high school youth group today, April 26, due to the High School Retreat this weekend.

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## *Serving in Worship*

### **Preacher**

Lorie Burke-Garcia

### **Presider**

Rev. Libby Baker-Mikesell

### **Minister of Music**

Jonathan Noel

### **Cantor**

Dwight Michael

### **Choirs**

(8:15) Martin Luther Choir

(10:45) St. James Choir

### **Assisting Minister**

Debra Baker

### **8:15 am Worship Service**

#### **Acolyte**

Jack Altemose

#### **Bell Ringer**

Peyton Smith

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Oliver Kehr

#### **Lay Readers**

Todd Izydorski, Tom Vossler

#### **Communion Assistants**

Kasey Smith, Dee Wells

Kathy Smith, Michael Guise

#### **Ushers**

Kyle Smith, Morgan Smith

Alan Zepp, Cindy Zepp

#### **Greeters**

Kim McGlaughlin

Ron Couchman

#### **Bread Baker**

Barbara Vossler

#### **Sacristy**

Judy Seilhamer

Shirley Sanders

#### **Coffee Host**

Shirley Sanders

#### **AV Operator**

Gary Smith

### **10:45 am Worship Service**

#### **Acolyte**

Gabbi Scavitto

#### **Bell Ringer**

Briah Russo

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Noah Rospigliosi

#### **Lay Readers**

Andy Crouse, Paige Betch

#### **Communion Assistants**

Carol Wideman, Anne Young

Sonja Withrow, Gloria Unger

#### **Ushers**

Bob Cook, John Fisher

Mark Withrow

#### **Greeters**

Lorie Burke-Garcia

Tom Uhlig

#### **Bread Baker**

Peggy Green

#### **Sacristy**

Anne Young, Jean Uhlig

#### **Flower Deliverer**

Sue Currens

#### **AV Operator**

Joseph MacDowell