

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, E.L.C.A.
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Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

* Stand as you are able

GATHERING

INVOCATION *

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

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.

Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

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.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

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.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, in the forgiveness of sin,
life and salvation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN*

ELW # 385 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"

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.**

KYRIE* (pages 138-139 in front of hymnal)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy

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

Lord have mercy

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.

Lord have mercy

For his holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy

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

Amen

Introduction to the Hymn of Praise

Hymn of Praise*- “Glory to God...” Pages 139-140 in front of hymnal

Prayer of the Day .

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Acts 2:42-47

42 [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 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, 47 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

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

2 **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

3 You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

1 Peter 2:19-25

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.

P: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation * (pg. 142 sing together)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia

P: THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 10:1-10*

C: 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord: C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *

ELW 778 "The Lord's My Shepard"

The Apostle's Creed * (Printed inside the back cover of the hymnal.)

Welcome to our WTKM radio and online worshipers, Good News and Prayer Petitions

Prayers of the Church

Response P: Merciful God. **C: Receive our Prayer**

Sharing the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**
(you are encouraged to turn to one another and share the peace of the Lord.)

Offering Hymn *

ELW # 182 "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

Offering Prayer *

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 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.

MEAL

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.**

The Preface *

P: Lord, it is indeed right and our joy that at all times and in all places we give thanks and praise to you. And so with the angels and archangels and with the church on earth and in heaven, we give glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, as we praise your name and join in the 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 (pg. 144 ELW)

The Words of Institution*

The Lord's Prayer *

Invitation to Communion

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

Hymn

Page 146 of hymnal

Distribution

Communion Hymn

ELW # 789 "Savior, Like a Shepard Lead Us"

SENDING

Communion Blessing *

Prayer After Communion *

**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, Amen.

Blessing *

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.

Amen.

Sending Hymn *

ELW # 807 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Dismissal *

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Redeemer Announcements

- Today's Lector is Michelle Burton, and our usher is Donna Lee
- Next week's Lector is Tom Hostad and our ushers are Kurt and Wendy Hintz
- This month's Friday Fish Fry will be **May 1st** at 4:30pm at **Stoll's Olde 109, N866 County Rd R, Watertown**. If you plan to join, please let us know by **Monday April 27th**.
- Pastor will be in the office on **Thursday April 30th** from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Appointments are appreciated, but not necessary. If you wish to meet with Pastor at other times, please contact him directly. Looking ahead, he will be in the office **Thursdays from 9am-12pm**.
- Roof Replacement monies are due by **May 1, 2026**.
- Our next "Conversations with God" will be **May 28th at 10am**

Ministry Partners

- Special Giving for April is Hartford Food Pantry
- Community Lunch will be served on **Saturday, May 30th**, 11:30am, at First United Methodist Church. Fellowship prior to lunch.
- Lincoln Elementary School

In the Nest:

- Casa Guadalupe English Language Learners "ELL" meets Monday & Wednesdays from 6-7:30PM.
- Al-Anon Meetings are held Thursdays at 7:00PM.
- Girl Scouts meet the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays.

The Needs of Our Partners:

Lincoln Elementary School.

Snacks include: Goldfish, Individually wrapped food items, Animal Crackers, and Granola Bars.. **NO NUTS**
Food Drive/Pantry: cereal, shelf stable microwave meals, canned goods and mac and cheese with cheese sauce.

Casa Guadalupe

Snacks Kid snacks – **NO NUTS**, Fruit cups, cereal, canned goods.
Other Items: Books (gently used is okay), new toys.

See The Herald and the giving tree in the coffee area for these and other needs.

**PLEASE JOIN US AFTER TODAY'S SERVICE FOR COFFEE AND SNACKS
IN THE GATHERING ROOM**