

**Welcome to Lord of Life  
Lutheran Church  
April 26, 2026  
Fourth Sunday of Easter**



*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.*

**Welcome:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church’s long-standing credo is “We share God’s Love”.

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

**Worship:** *Communion:* All are welcome to share in Holy Communion. Individual packets available near the entrance to the worship center.

*Passing of the Peace:* It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, “May I hug you?” or “Would you like a handshake.”

*Physical Distancing:* It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

**Children Welcome:** Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kids bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

## ***PRELUDE***

### ***Gathering***

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#### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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,  
and for making us a new creation.  
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN* Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing *ELW 807***

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
fills my heart with joy and love,  
teach me ever to adore thee;  
may I still thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:  
"Hither by thy help I've come";  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;

let that grace now like a fether  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

## ***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.**

## ***PRAYER OF THE DAY***

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.  
**Amen.**

*All are seated*

## ***Word***

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**First Reading: Acts 2:42-47**

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

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

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my  
life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

<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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
 crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*Alleluia.* Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. **I know my own and my own know me.** *Alleluia.* (John 10:14)

***THE GOSPEL READING: John 10:1-10***

The holy scriptures according to John, the tenth chapter.  
**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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All are seated.*

***SERMON***

***Pastor Adam Dowd***

***(Leave Blank)***

## ***HYMN OF THE DAY***

### ***Response to the Word***

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*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

## ***THE NICENE CREED***

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene's Creed:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*All are seated.*

### ***THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH***

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured especially Leeann, Nancy, Jenna, Art, Vernetta, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, and Gale. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
**Amen.**

### ***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE***

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “Peace be with you.” If you have your phone available, text a word of peace to someone who is worshiping alone.*

### ***OFFERING AND PRAYER***

*The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.*

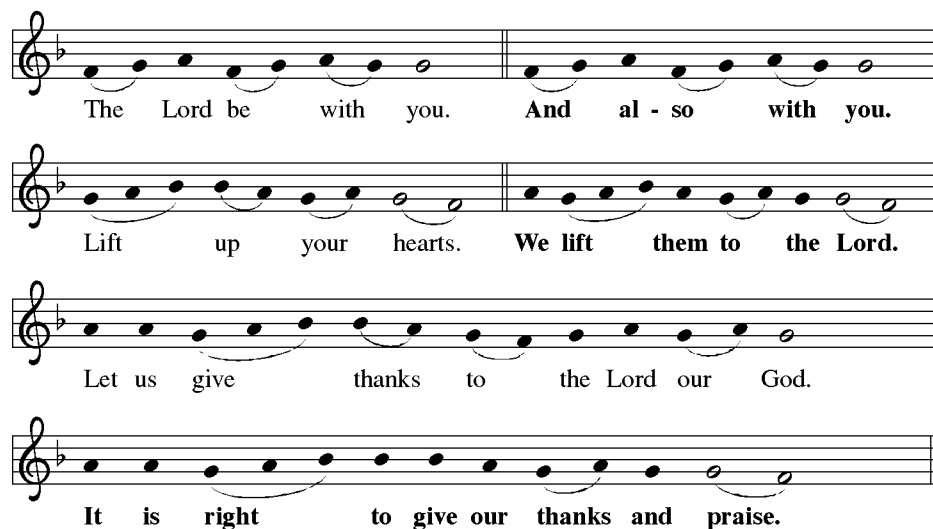


Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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.**

## *Meal*

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*



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 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER...***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
 might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## ***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE***

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
 You are most holy,  
 and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
 but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
 to fulfill for us your holy will  
 and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and  
ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### ***LORD'S PRAYER***

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us "*PRAY*" the prayer that  
Jesus taught us:

**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. Amen.**

### ***INVITATION TO COMMUNION***

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

### ***COMMUNION***

*All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.*

*We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.*

### ***SONG DURING COMMUNION***

## ***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.**

### ***Sending***

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## ***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.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,  
The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.  
**Amen**

## ***SENDING HYMN What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine ELW 774***

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain*

Leaning, leaning, (*Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, (*leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain*

Leaning, leaning, (*Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, (*leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain*

Leaning, leaning, (*Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, (*leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

***DISMISSAL***

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## ***POSTLUDE***

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

We thank you for your ministry here today:

**Presiding Minister**

**Assisting Minister**

Lector

Pianist

Guitarist

Greeters

Ushers

Acolyte

Video

Pastor Adam Dowd

Kellie Kerfin

Judy Padera

Nancy Urban

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Marlene Carlson

Marilynn Sells & Debbie McNichol

Arlene Danielson

Roberta Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost

## **Announcements**

**4-26-2026**

**Wine and Candles** this month are provided by **The Glover Family**, in memory of **Brian Glover**.

### **A Worldwide Celebration (40th Anniversary) Holden Evening**

**Prayer** On Tuesday, April 28, from 7:00 pm to 7:30pm, Our Saviour's Campus Sanctuary, 815 S. Washington Street, Naperville, IL 60540, is holding a special Holden Evening Prayer service as they join communities around the world in song and prayer. The service will be held in the sanctuary with candlelight and a more intimate setting, featuring piano, flute, and guided singing.

**OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling** Join us at the Skeleton Key Brewery, 8102 Lemont Road, #300, Woodridge, on **April 30th** for an evening of personal stories from the LGBTQ+ community! Doors open at 5pm & stories start at 7:30pm! Outspoken is free to attend (for 21+) and a portion of our sales for the evening will be donated to Youth Outlook to help support LGBTQ+ youth.

**Treat Table** We will be having a treat table after service on **May 3rd** to celebrate Daughter's Day.

**Lunch Bunch** We will meet at Chucks, 8025 Cass Avenue, Darien, on **Tuesday, May 12th, at 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Connie Kilros at 708-296-3786. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

**Please pray for members:**

Leeann Swanson	Nancy Urban	Jenna Suda
Art Sejnost	Vern Sima	Kerry Spitznagle
Roberta Sejnost	Judy Padera	Linda Matta
Paul Ristau	Toni Blesy	Jim Eckwall
Caryl Schaer	Gale Dyskie	

A full list of relatives, friends, and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday.

**Last Week's Giving – \$1535.00**

**Electronic Donation for the month of March - \$933.82**

**THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE**

Sunday	4/26	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Tuesday	4/28	5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
		<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Holden Evening Prayer - Naperville</b>
Wednesday	4/29	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Thursday	4/30	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>OUTspoken - Skeleton Key</b>
Friday	5/1	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Cards</b>
Saturday	5/2	9:00 AM	SDA
Sunday	5/3	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Daughters' Day</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word