



**A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ON THIS FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
APRIL 26, 2026**

**ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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STAFF & CONGREGATION SUPPORT: BETH PITTMAN  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT: BRENT WELCH**

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

APRIL 26, 2026

### INTRODUCTION

*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.*

### PRELUDE

“Come Thou Fount”

arr. Raney

Jean Pontious

*You may remain seated or stand.*

### 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.

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.

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”

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with ioy and love.  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the staves, with line numbers 1 and 3 indicating different verses. The score concludes with a double bar line.


## GREETING

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

C And is also with you.



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ is with you always.

C **And is also with you.**

*Please take a moment to share the peace*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C **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.**

Sit

## WE HEAR THE WORD

*The pericopes readings for this week are: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10*

### **READING: Acts 2:42-47**

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

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

*After the reading:*

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23

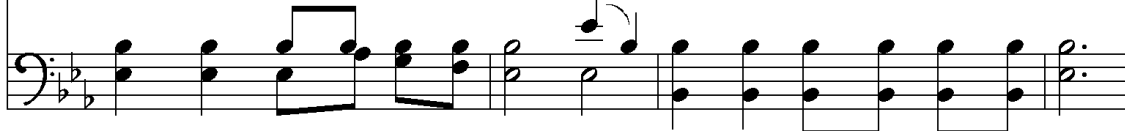
“Savior Like a Shepherd”



1 Sav - ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.  
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.




Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.



## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*You may remain seated or stand.*

### VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

### GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

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

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go 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.”

*After the reading:*

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**MESSAGE**  
**PASTOR KATHY HAUEISEN**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**8:30am**

“Savior Like a Shepherd”

arr. Raney

**Jean Pontious**

**11:00am**

“Be Still and Know”

Victor C. Johnson

**Advent Choir**

*Offering is taken and the offering plates will be passed. You may put your donation in one of the pew envelopes and put in the offering plates, or use the “Online Donator” card, found in the pew rack. You can also support Advent’s Ministries by using this QR code:*



*You may remain seated or stand*

**C** 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.

## APOSTLES' CREED

A Christians, what do we believe?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

A 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*

A 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, and for our Bishop Suzanne and national Bishop Curry. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A 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,

C **receive our prayer.**

A 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. We lift up especially Ukraine, Israel, Iran, Gaza, Tanzania, China, North Korea, United States, and Russia - may they all learn the ways of peace. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured; restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. We take a moment now to pray for those in need of healing; family members, friends, co-workers, casual acquaintances and those we know only by name, either out loud, or silently in our hearts (*pause*). Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A 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,

C **receive our prayer.**

- A 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,
- C **receive our prayer.**
- A 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.
- C **Amen.**


## GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. C **And al - so with you.**



P Lift up your hearts. C **We lift them to the Lord.**

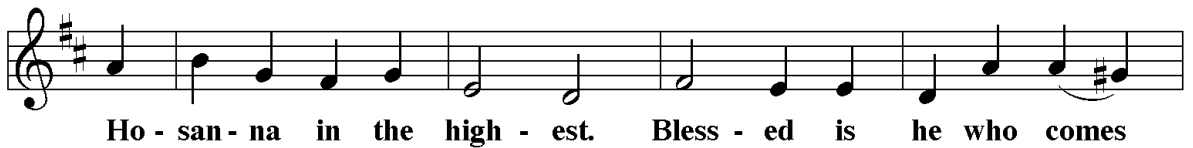
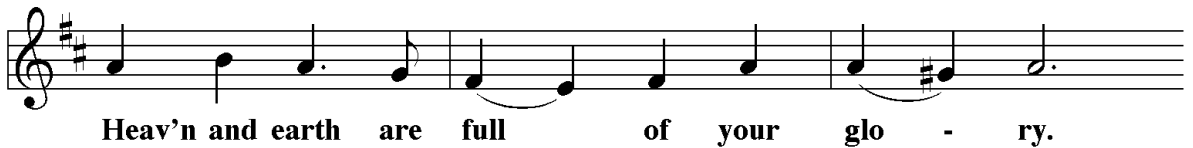
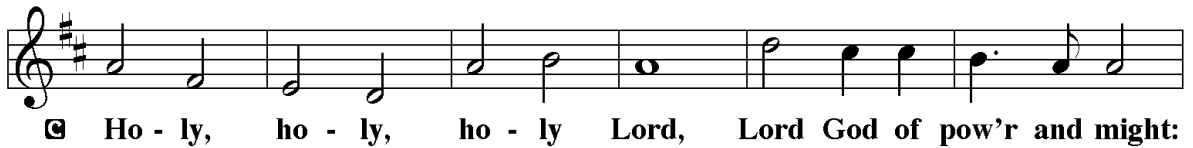


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

- P It is indeed right, and our duty and our joy... And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, with the angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

**P** Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** 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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

A Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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



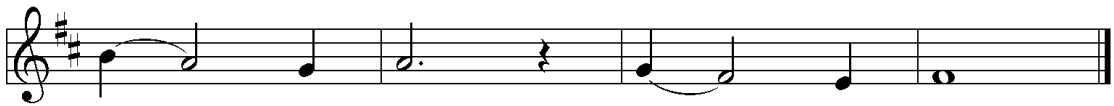
**C** Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

## DISTRIBUTION

*This communion bread is free from: Gluten, Dairy, Nuts, Egg and Yeast.*

*Grape juice is available by request at the chancel rail.*

*Please place your empty communion cup in the baskets provided on the first row of chairs.*

***If you would like to receive communion at your seat,  
please let an usher know.***

## POST COMMUNION

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen

## PRAYER

**A** 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.

## WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

### BENEDICTION

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

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing”

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with line numbers 1 and 4 indicating the start of phrases. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.

C **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
ACOLYTE		HADLEY SAMUEL
ASSISTING MINISTER	ALYSHA CLOUS	XAVIER TOLLIVER
PASTOR	GUEST PASTOR KATHY HAUEISEN	



*The Altar Flowers are given to celebrate Jonathan and Nicholas Pontious' 12<sup>th</sup> birthdays, and in memory of Glenn Sharp, with love, from Brenda Wheeler.*

*Please check the 2026 Altar Flower Chart located above the usher stand to order flowers in honor of someone special or celebrating special occasions. Price is \$25.00 per vase.*

## **This Week at Advent**

<b>Sun April 26</b>	Confirmation/Youth	12:15pm
<b>Tue April 28</b>	Building Use – Singing Buckeyes	6:00pm
<b>Wed April 29</b>	Worship at The Estates	2:00pm
	Wednesday Night Zoom Worship	7:00pm
<b>Thur April 30</b>	Angel Choir rehearsal	6:30pm
	Bell Choir rehearsal	6:40pm
	Advent Choir rehearsal	7:30pm

### **Looking Ahead:**

Sun May 3	Advent's 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!	10:00am
	<b><i>We begin ONE SERVICE at 10:00AM from now thru Labor Day Weekend</i></b>	
Sun May 10	Pastor David Hinkelman's last Sunday with Advent	10:00am
Sun May 24	Pastor Joel Richter's First Sunday at Advent	10:00am
Sun June 7	Pastor Joel Richter's Installation	10:00am
June 22-26	Advent's Vacation Bible School	9:00am – 11:30am
June 28	Jean Pontious' retirement celebration	11:00am

## **Commemorations This Week:**

Wed April 29, 2026: **Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380**

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

Fri May 1, 2026: **Philip and James, Apostles**

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

Sat May 2, 2026: **Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373**

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

### **"White Paraments"**

**by Melissa Richeson-O'Neil, Artist**

Think of open windows and the great gladness of an awakening earth! White paraments are used for the church's high celebrations, Easter and Christmas. Easter is the Church's most ancient and beautiful season, announcing resurrection and calling us to live as if God's rule of justice and peace were fully with us. Christmas announces the glorious appearing of God on earth, the radiance of Christ's birth bursting through the darkness of our lives. Both seasons call us to breathe deeply, live fully, and celebrate life.

While brainstorming the white paraments for Advent Lutheran, the Liturgy Committee concurred that we would limit the color scheme of the designs to whites and golds. Gold has long represented richness and splendor, while purity and completeness. The five pieces of Advent's white altar parament may be hung in different arrangements and numbers. The entire payment was constructed to reveal the altar itself and the crosses on top.

The applied fabric designs depict ancient symbols from Church history. The palm leaf recalls the joyous celebration of Palm Sunday – throngs of people waving palms in delight as they witnessed Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The palm curves just as an actual frond would bend while being waved.

The *Chi Rho*, which looks like the letters "P" and "X" superimposed on one another, is one of the earliest cruciform symbols. It is a combination of the first two letters of the word "Christ" in Greek- *chi* for "Ch" and *rho* for "r".

Another panel depicts an abstracted sheaf of wheat, bordered on one side by deep blue stitching of flowing waters. Water brings to mind our births and baptisms; the wheat symbolizes Christ as the bread of life.

Water images also appear behind appliques of fish. The fish, or "*ichthys*", is an acrostic of the first letters of the Greek words for "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior". Two semi-circles, overlapped to form a fish shape, were a symbol often used among early Christians to identify one another during the times of Roman persecution.

The sun radiates from an upper corner on the final panel. We call Jesus "the Light of the World" and refer to the purity of God's love. The sun's rising marks each new day – especially those of resurrection and birth – and an Isaiah reading for Advent cries, "Oh, that you would tear open the heavens and come down!"

Finally, each individual panel is quilted, binding together layers of silk and batting just as God's love binds our lives together as the children of God. The stitches are like the prayers of God's children, shared love filling lives with joy and compassion.