

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CARING FOR CREATION SERVICE

APRIL 26, 2026

8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church warmly welcomes people of any age, race, nationality, sexual orientation, life circumstance, and physical or mental capability

*You are invited to stand—please silence your cell phones

∞ **GATHERING** ∞
“In Thee Is Gladness”
-Kevin Hildebrand

PRELUDE

Anna Kate Peed

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***EASTER PROCLAMATION**

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

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.

***LITANY FOR CREATION AND CONFESSION**

P Whoever we are and wherever we come from, we share the reality that this earth is our home. So we come at this moment to remind ourselves of the truth that the ways in which we live within this earth home affect for good or ill the home itself and all that dwells within it. Open to the moment, therefore, and open to one another we come before the mystery of life.

We join with the earth and with one another to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air.

C **We join with the earth and with one another,**

P to renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures.

C **We join with the earth and with one another,**

P to celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, to sing the song of the stars.

C **We join with the earth and with one another,**

P to create human community, to promote justice and peace, to eradicate poverty and inequality, to remember the generations yet to come.

C **We join with the earth and with one another.**

P We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery, for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

C **Amen!**

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us confess our sins against creation to our creator God and to one another.

Silence for meditation. (Stand or kneel)

P Holy God,

C you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust. Sometimes we are part of the just, and sometimes we are part of the unjust. You have given us incredible gifts of water, soil, air, plants, and animals that sustain our lives. When we are ungrateful, forgive us. When we forget to take care of these resources, forgive us. When we hoard these resources and keep them from others who need them, forgive us. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us to refresh us and renew us so that we can use the gifts you have given us to care for each other and for our earth.

P By the mercies of our creator God, and by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. **C Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN

“Earth and All Stars”

ELW #734

*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.**

*KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

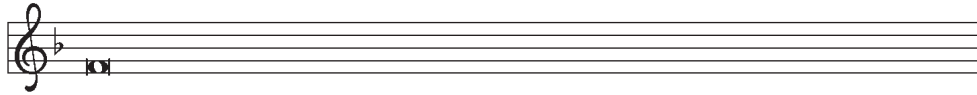
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

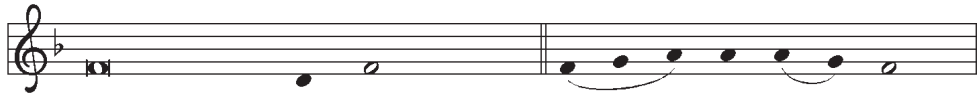
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Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

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

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

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

Refrain

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

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

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Bountiful God, you call us to labor with you in tending the earth: Where we lack love, open our hearts to the world; where we waste, give us discipline to conserve; where we neglect, awaken our minds and wills to insight and care. May we with all your creatures honor and serve you in all things, for you live and reign with Christ, Redeemer of all, and with your Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G Amen.**

∞ WORD ∞

FIRST READING

- L** A reading from Genesis.

At conclusion of reading

- L** The Word of the Lord. **G Thanks be to God.**

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Pew Bible, Page 1

PSALM *(please read responsively)*

Psalms 104:1, 10-24

- A** Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty,
- G You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills,**
- A** giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst.
- G By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.**
- A** From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
- G You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to cultivate, to bring forth food from the earth**
- A** and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine and bread to strengthen the human heart.
- G The trees of the field are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.**
- A** In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees.
- G The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers.**
- A** You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.
- G You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.**
- A** The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God.
- G When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens.**
- A** People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.
- G O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.**

SECOND READING

L A reading from Romans.

At conclusion of reading

Romans 12:1-2

Pew Bible, Page 1033

L The Word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 6:25-26

G Glory to you, O Lord.

Pew Bible, Page 882

At conclusion of reading

P The gospel of the Lord. **G** Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

“God’s call to care for creation”

Pastor Karen Boda

*HYMN OF DAY

“God of the Fertile Fields”

ACS #1063



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

continues on next page



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

*APOSTLES' CREED

☑ 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

The Assisting Minister will close each petition with the words, "we pray". Worshipers respond with the words, "Merciful God, we keep your planet and people in peace."

*PEACE

☐ The Peace of the Lord be with you always. ☑ And also with you.

(Please greet one another with a friendly word or gesture of God's peace.)

☞ MEAL ☜

OFFERING

Please sign the "Who's Who in the Pew" pads and pass along as the offering is received. Please indicate if you are a visitor to Good Shepherd.

OFFERING ANTHEM "Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven" Anna Kate Peed

-Kevin Hildebrand

***OFFERING HYMN "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" ELW #884**

*OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Let us pray. 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.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*DIALOGUE

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.

*PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P God is our rock..... Great is the mystery of faith.

C Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

P Renewing God,....Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

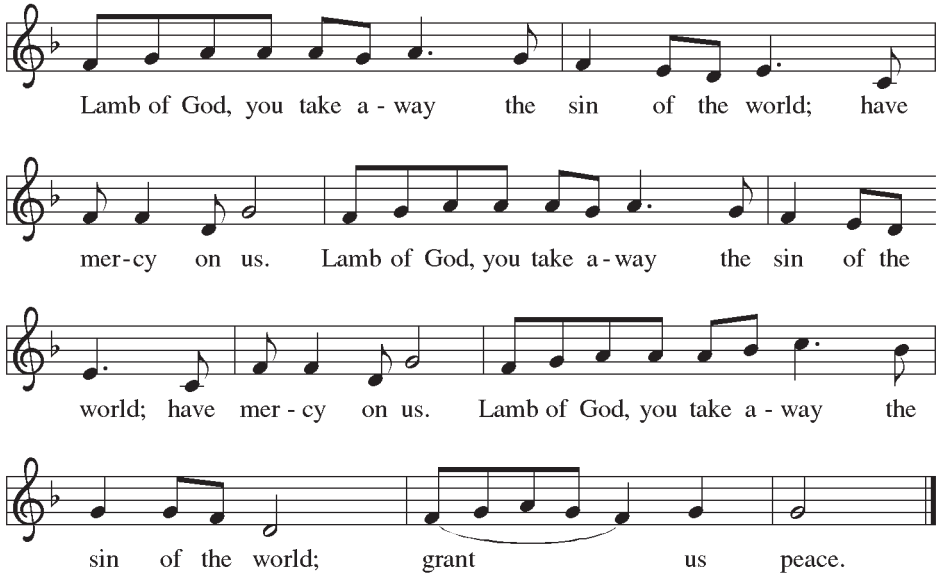
C Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

COMMUNION/COMMUNION HYMNS

“This Is My Father’s World”

ELW #824

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW #733

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace

C Amen.

*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.

SENDING

*BLESSING

P Beloved children of God, you were made for this earth, and this earth was made for you. Go forth to love and serve God in creation, knowing in your deepest heart that you are blessed from the beginning of time. † In the name of the Holy One who called all things good.

C Amen.



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
 2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
 3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffé.
 Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
 cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - jice
 Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
 In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
 live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
 born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

*BLESSING OF THE GARDEN

(Weather permitting, worship continues as we gather outside near the Garden of Grace.)

☐ Let us pray. God of earthworms and compost, God of fertilizer and dirty fingernails, God of field and furrow:

In the beginning you created human beings in your image, giving us a lush and abundant garden to be our home together with you;

When we were lost and wandering in exile you provided water and manna to sustain us;

By your prophet Jeremiah you urged your people Israel to build houses and plant gardens, even when they were uprooted and far from home; And in the fullness of time you sent your Son Jesus Christ to scatter the seeds of your Word, to proclaim the coming of your Kingdom, and to give your blessing to all who hunger:

We ask your blessing now upon this garden, that it may faithfully provide food for those in our community.

A volunteers lifts a shovelful (or handful) of soil from the garden and distributes it.

Creator God, bless this soil, that it may nourish the vegetables and herbs planted here,strengthening their roots and encouraging their growth by the prayers of this community.

☞ Lord, hear our prayer.

A volunteer uses a watering can to sprinkle water over the garden bed.

☞ Lord Jesus Christ, who gives Living Water so that none may be thirsty: Bless this water, the most basic necessity of life, that it may carry nutrients from the soil to the plants, making them healthy, green, and full of life.

☞ Lord, hear our prayer.

Set a pair of work gloves onto a garden post.

☞ Holy Spirit, our comforter and friend, who brings near those who were once far-off: Bless the volunteers who will help tend this garden and also those who will receive its gifts, that their work may produce the good fruit of hospitality and friendship, bearing witness to your holy love, faithfulness, and service.

☞ Lord, hear our prayer.

☞ We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ the Sower, who plants in our hearts the seeds of mercy and loving-kindness.

☞ Amen.

***CHORAL ANTHEM**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Chancel Choir

-Unknown

***DISMISSAL**

☞ Go in peace. Care for creation!

☞ Thanks be to God!

WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY!

8:30 AM Traditional Worship | 10:45 AM Praise Worship

9:45 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Studies

Facebook Live at facebook.com/gslcwoodstock

STAY CONNECTED AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Would you like to learn more about Good Shepherd? Read our Sheep Buzz Newsletter! Sign-up on our website for a newsletter to be delivered to your e-mail inbox every Friday around 3 PM. Want to get a text when a Sheep Buzz is sent? Text media@gslutheran.org to be added to the list of recipients.

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Pam Weinelt Praise Team Coordinator
Anna Kate Peed Organist/Choir Director
Open Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator
Michelle Provost Office Coordinator
Donna Garges Media Coordinator
Carrie Escamilla Bookkeeper
Aaron Frink Custodian

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