

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CARING FOR CREATION SERVICE

APRIL 26, 2026

10:45 AM Praise 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 ∞

GATHERING MUSIC

Praise Team

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***EASTER PROCLAMATION**

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.**

***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

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

Silence for meditation. (Stand or kneel)

☞ Holy God,

☞ **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 in us to care for each other and for our earth.**

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

*GATHERING SONG

"Resurrecting"

"Words and Music by Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Wade Joye and Matthews Ntlele"; © 2015 Music by Elevation Worship Publishing

Verse 1

The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now
The Savior knelt to wash our feet
Now at his feet we bow

Is victory
All praise
Will rise
To Christ our king *Repeat*

Verse 3

The fear that held us now gives way
To him who is our peace
His final breath upon the cross
Is now alive in me

Bridge

By your spirit I will rise
From the ashes of defeat
The resurrected king
Is resurrecting me
In your name I come alive
To declare your victory
The resurrected king
Is resurrecting me *Repeat*

Chorus

Your name
Your name

*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

☞ 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.

☞ **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

📖 A reading from Genesis.

At conclusion of reading

📖 The Word of the Lord. 🙏 Thanks be to God.

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Pew Bible, Page 1

SECOND READING

📖 A reading from Romans.

At conclusion of reading

📖 The Word of the Lord. 🙏 Thanks be to God.

Romans 12:1-2

Pew Bible, Page 1033

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*GOSPEL READING

📖 The holy gospel according to Matthew.

🙏 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At conclusion of reading

📖 The gospel of the Lord. 🙏 **Praise to you, O Christ**

Matthew 6:25-26

Pew Bible, Page 882

SERMON

"God's call to care for creation"

Pastor Karen Boda

*SONG OF DAY

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

Words by St. Francis of Assisi Translated by William Henry Draper; Music "Lasst Uns Erfreuen" Arranged by David Crowder and Brent Milligan; © Words: Public Domain | Music: 2002 sixsteps Music | worshiptogether.com songs | Moon & Musky Music

Verse 1

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him O praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Ending

O alleluia alleluia
O alleluia alleluia
O alleluia alleluia
O alleluia alleluia alleluia

Verse 2

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him alleluia
Praise praise the Father praise the Son
And praise the Spirit three in One
O praise Him O praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

*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". Worshippers 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 SONG

"God of the Harvest"

Praise Team

-Larry Olson and Karol Barr

*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.**

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

☑ **Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.**

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

☑ **Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

☑ 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

COMMUNION/COMMUNION SONGS

"Hands to the Heavens"

Words and Music by Kari Jobe, Jason Ingram, Bryan Brown and Tofer Brown © 2013 worshiptogether.com songs | Razor and Tie Music Publishing | Tofer The Musical | Open Hands Music | So Essential Tunes

Verse 1

We are Your church
We are Your sons and daughters
We've gathered here to meet with You

Verse 2

We lift our eyes
We lay our hearts before You
Expectant here for You to move

Chorus

With our hands to the heavens
Alive in Your presence
O God when You come
So pour out Your Spirit
We love to be near You
O God when You come

"Send Down Your Spirit"

Words and Music by Will Hickl; © 2019 NOVUM PUBLISHING

Verse 1

Though I wage war within
My broken heart cannot begin
To understand who You are
And how You love me

Chorus 1

Lord send down Your Spirit
Let me receive Your peace
Lord send down Your wisdom
Let my trust in You increase

Verse 2

Though I fail to believe
My wandering heart longs to see
And comprehend who You are
And know Your mercy

Verse 3

You are the way
The truth and life we live for
Oh how we long to know You more
Chorus

Chorus 2

Lord send down Your Spirit
Let me receive Your peace
Lord send down Your wisdom
Let my trust in You increase

Bridge

Draw near to us
Come dwell in us
We invite You Jesus
Draw near to us
Come dwell in us
We invite You Jesus
Chorus 2

"Indescribable"

Indescribable - Words and Music by Laura Story, additional lyrics by Jesse Reeves ; © 2004 worshiptogether.com Songs/sixsteps Music/ Gleaning Publishing

Verse 1

From the highest of heights to the depths of
the sea
Creation's revealing Your majesty
From the colors of Fall to the fragrance of
Spring
Ev'ry creature unique in the song that it sings
All exclaiming

Chorus 1

Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God
All powerful untamable
Awestruck we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God

Verse 2

Who has told ev'ry lightning bolt where it
should go

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

☞ Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☞ 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,

☞ Amen.

∞ SENDING ∞

*BLESSING

☞ 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. ☞ Amen.

Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with
snow
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its
light
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night
None can fathom

Interlude

You are amazing God

Chorus 2

Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God
Incomparable unchangeable
You see the depths of my heart
And You love me the same
You are amazing God
You are amazing God

***SENDING SONG**

"Risen Today"

Music by Charles Wesley and Aaron Shust; Words by Aaron Shust; © 2011 Bridge Building Music, Inc. | CP Shust Tunes

Verse 1

Christ the Lord is risen today
Hallelujah
Sons of man and angels say
Hallelujah
Raise your joys and triumphs high
Hallelujah
Sing ye heavens and earth reply

Death in vain forbid Him rise
Hallelujah
Christ has opened paradise

Chorus

Hallelujah He is risen
Hallelujah our sins have been forgiven
Now we have power over the grave
Christ the Lord is risen today
We have power over the grave
Christ the Lord is risen today

Verse 2

Love's redeeming work is done
Hallelujah
Fought the fight the battle won
Hallelujah

***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 volunteer 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.

P 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.

G **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Set a pair of work gloves onto a garden post.

P 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.

G **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

G **Amen.**

***CREATION SONG**

"The Earth and Everything"

Words and Music by Hans Peterson; © 1992 Dakota Road Music

Chorus

The earth and everything that lives in it,
The earth and everything that lives in it,
belongs to the Lord.

Verse 1

Who are those that truly love
their God faithfully?
It is they with hearts and hands
who do God's will joyfully. *Chorus*

Verse 2

God is present in our midst;
Lift your hearts, look up and see.
We are his work, and through our lives
God's love and glory we will be. *Chorus*

Verse 3

If everything belongs to God,
all the people, all the land,
can we agree to work together
one another understand? *Chorus*

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Care for creation!

G **Thanks be to God!**

***SENDING MUSIC**

Praise Team

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](https://www.facebook.com/gslcwoodstock)

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Use this QR code to sign-up to receive our weekly Sheep Buzz Newsletter.



Use this QR code to donate to Good Shepherd.



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