

**The Fourth Sunday In Easter
“Good Shepherd Sunday”
April 26, 2026
Heritage Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, MN
9:00 a.m.**



ELH Rite 4, Chorale Service, no Communion page 107

1. Welcome

2. Opening Hymn #367 “Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd”

1 Gracious Savior, gentle Shepherd, Children all are dear to Thee;
Gathered with Thine arms and carried In Thy bosom may we be;
Sweetly, fondly, safely tended, From all want and danger free.

2 Tender Shepherd, never leave us From Thy fold to go astray;
By Thy look of love directed, May we walk the narrow way.
Thus direct us and protect us, Lest they fall an easy prey.

3 Cleanse our hearts from sinful folly In the stream Thy love supplied,
Mingled stream of blood and water Flowing from Thy wounded side;
And to heav'nly pastures lead us, Where Thine own still waters glide.

4 Let Thy holy Word instruct us; Guide us daily by its light;
Let Thy love and grace constrain us To approve whate'er is right,
Take Thine easy yoke and wear it, Strengthened with Thy heav'nly might.

5 Taught to lisp Thy holy praises Which on earth Thy children sing,
Both with lips and hearts unfeigned, May we our thank-off'rings bring,
Then with all the saints in glory Join to praise our Lord and King.

3. Invocation

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation Amen.

4. The Confession of Sin

Pastor Let us confess our sins:

Congregation Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned against Your divine majesty by thought, word, and deed, provoking Your wrath against us. We earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for our sins. We grieve to think of them. Their burden is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, gracious Father! Forgive us our sins for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we may serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor Lift up your hearts. The Lord God, according to His promise, is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. By the command of Christ and the authority of my holy office I forgive your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5. The Kyrie - Hymn #34 "Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above"

*Kyrie, God Father in heav'n above, Great art Thou in grace and love
Of all things the Maker and Preserver. Eleison, eleison!*

Kyrie, O Christ, our King, Salvation for sinners Thou didst bring.

*O Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Our Mediator at the heav'nly throne,
Hear our cry and grant our supplication. Eleison, eleison!*

*Kyrie, O God the Holy Ghost, Guard our faith, the gift we need the most;
Do Thou our last hour bless; Let us leave this sinful world with gladness.*

Eleison, eleison!

6. The Gloria Hymn - Hymn #35 "All Glory Be to God on High" verse 1

All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended!

To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended.

God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again;

O thank Him for His goodness!

7. The Collect for the Day

Pastor Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, out of Your fatherly goodness You have been mindful of us poor, miserable sinners, and have given Your beloved Son to be our Shepherd, not only to nourish us by His Word, but also to defend us from sin, death, and the devil: We beseech You, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that, even as this Shepherd knows us and helps us in every affliction, we also may know Him, and, trusting in Him, seek help and comfort in Him, from our hearts obey His voice, and obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

8. Psalm 23 (read in unison)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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; my cup overflows.

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

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

9. The Old Testament Lesson – Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a,51-60

¹ Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was

doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. ² And Stephen said: ⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” ⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

10. Gradual Hymn #370 “The King Of Love, My Shepherd Is”

1 The King of Love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His.
And He is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight,
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever.

11. The Epistle – 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By

his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

12. Chief Hymn #371 “The Lord’s My Shepherd”

1 The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

2 My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

3 Yea, tho' I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

4 My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy, all my life,
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be.

13. The Gospel Lesson John 10:1-10

¹ “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and 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.

14. The Creed Hymn #37 “We All Believe In One True God”

1 We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present Help in need, Praised by all the heav'nly host,
By whose mighty pow'r alone All is made and wrought and done.

2 We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son,
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won,
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.

3 We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both fore'er proceeds,
Who upholds and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blest and Holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!

15. Children’s Message

16. The Sermon “Jesus Is The Door” John 10:7

17. The Offering

18. The Prayers *prayer requests and general prayers for the needs of all people*

19. The Lord’s Prayer (sung by all)

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.

20. The Closing Prayer

Pastor Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and take them to heart, that by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

21. The Benediction

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Congregation Amen.

22. Closing Hymn #372 “Jesus Thy Boundless Love To Me”

1 Jesus, Thy boundless love to me
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;
Unite my thankful heart with Thee
And reign without a rival there.
To Thee alone, dear Lord, I live;
Myself to Thee, dear Lord, I give.

2 Oh, grant that nothing in my soul
May dwell but Thy pure love alone!
Oh, may Thy love possess me whole,
My Joy, my Treasure, and my Crown!
All coldness from my heart remove;
My ev'ry act, word, thought, be love.

3 O Love, how cheering is Thy ray!
All pain before Thy presence flies;
Care, anguish, sorrow, melt away
Where'er Thy healing beams arise.
O Jesus, nothing may I see,
Nothing desire or seek, but Thee!

4 This love unwearied I pursue
And dauntlessly to Thee aspire.
Oh, may Thy love my hope renew,
Burn in my soul like heav'nly fire!
And day and night be all my care
To guard this sacred treasure there.

5 Oh, draw me, Savior, e'er to Thee;
 So shall I run and never tire.
 With gracious words still comfort me;
 Be Thou my Hope, my sole Desire.
 Free me from ev'ry guilt and fear;
 No sin can harm if Thou art near.

6 Still let Thy love point out my way;
 What wondrous things Thy love hath wrought!
 Still lead me lest I go astray;
 Direct my work, inspire my thought;
 And if I fall, soon may I hear
 Thy voice and know that love is near!

7 In suffering be Thy love my peace,
 In weakness be Thy love my pow'r;
 And when the storms of life shall cease,
 O Jesus, in that final hour,
 Be Thou my Rod and Staff and Guide
 And draw me safely to Thy side!

Announcements

Worship Change – The Council voted to change our second service to Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. This change will take place June 1st. The last Saturday evening service will be on May 16th at 5:30 pm.

Budget Forum Meeting – Sunday May 31st after church.

Annual Voters' Meeting – Sunday, June 14th after church.

Women's Bible Study – The Monday Evening Bible Class meets at church at 6:30 pm. Contact Ruth Braun if you would like more information.

Men's Bible Study – Men's Bible study meets on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

Choir – The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. New members are always welcome!

Fellowship - Volunteers are always needed to provide fellowship food every Sunday. Please sign up on the volunteer board.

Spring Clean Up – Please see the volunteer board for opportunities to help around the church grounds. There are indoor and outdoor projects. Please take a look and see if there are any projects that you would like to help with.

Budget Update – We have updated the member-giving scorecard through the end of February. If you have any questions, please speak with church treasurer Phil Holz or church president Dave Paulsen.

<u>Member Giving Scorecard</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Target</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Annual Target</u>
Member General Fund Giving	\$215,006	\$222,069	(\$7,063)	\$360,000
Estate Gift	\$42,200	\$0	\$42,200	\$0
School Deficit Reduction Giving Target	\$18,546	21,411	(\$2,865)	\$32,117
Hike for Heritage	\$17,517	\$0	\$17,517	\$0
Accrued Matching Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Member Giving	\$293,269	\$243,480	\$49,789	\$392,117



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