

4th Sunday in Easter

26th April 2026

Sunday of the Good Shepherd



### *Acknowledgement of Country*

We acknowledge the triune God, the Creator of heaven and earth and God's ownership of all things (Psalm 24:1). In God's sovereignty, God has allowed other groups to migrate to these shores. We acknowledge the cultures of our First Nations Peoples and are thankful for the community that we share together now.

*Cantor:* Thank you for joining our Service today as we celebrate the fourth Sunday in the Easter season. We welcome those watching via livestream. I invite you to stand to sing our opening hymn.

### *Opening Hymn: The Church's One Foundation*

The Church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ our Lord;  
she is His new creation  
by water and the word;  
from heaven He came and sought her  
to be His holy bride;  
with His own blood He bought her,  
and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth,  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder  
men see her sore oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder  
by heresies distressed;  
yet saints their watch are keeping,  
their cry goes up: 'How long?'  
and soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.

Yet she on earth hath union  
with God the Three-in-One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
on high may dwell with Thee.  
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### *Minister's Welcome*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

O Lord, open our hearts **that we may worship you.**

Open our lips **that we may declare your praise.**

Our Saviour is risen **He is risen indeed.**

### *The Sentence*

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'  
(John 10:11)

## *Prayer of Approach*

*Assistant: Let us pray the prayer of approach,*

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## *Collect of the Day*

God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep: send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## *Ministry of the Word*

**The first reading is from Acts 2, verses 42-47.**

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Hear the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm of the day is number 23.**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup>**He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,**

<sup>3</sup>He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will 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; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit **as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.**

**The second reading is from the book of 1 Peter, chapter 2, verses 1-10.**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

<sup>3</sup>now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup>Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

<sup>8</sup>and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup>Once

you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Hear the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

### *Gospel Song: He is Lord*

He is Lord, He is Lord, He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Sing twice)

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### *Hearing the Gospel*

**The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 10 verses 1-10.**

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>1</sup>Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <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 listen to 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 on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

<sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

<sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### *The Sermon: The Reality of Living Christ's abundant Life*

### *Offertory Hymn: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto Me and rest;  
Lay down, O weary one, lay down  
Thy head upon My breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,  
Weary, and worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
And he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
The living water; thirsty one,  
Stoop down, and drink, and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank  
Of that life-giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
And now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"I am this dark world's Light;  
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
And all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found  
In him my Star, my Sun;  
And in that Light of life I'll walk,  
Till trav'ling days are done.

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*Giving and Offerings:* The Minister will pray over the offerings.

### *The Apostles' Creed*

*Assistant:* Let us affirm the faith of the church,

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there 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.**

### *The Prayer of the Week*

Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: help us when we hear his voice to know him who calls us each by name, and to follow where he leads; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### *Prayer for ANZAC Day*

Loving and faithful God, our Good Shepherd, you call each of us by name and lead us in paths of peace. On this Anzac Day, we remember with gratitude and sorrow those who have served and sacrificed in times of war and conflict. We honour their courage, their mateship, and their willingness to lay down their lives for others.

Father, your Son Jesus, our Shepherd and our guide, knows what it is to walk through the valley of the shadow of death. May Jesus be near to all who carry memories of war—veterans, families, and communities—especially those who still bear wounds of body, mind, or spirit. Gather the lost, comfort the grieving, and lead all people into the green pastures of your healing and hope. As we remember the past, shape us to be people of peace in the present—attentive to your voice, gentle in our care for one another, and courageous in seeking justice and reconciliation. May we follow you, the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for the sheep, and who calls us to live not in fear, but in love. We entrust all who have died in war to your eternal care, and we pray for a world where your peace reigns, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *Prayers for the world and our community*

*The intercessor on the roster will prepare prayers for:  
A prayer for the world, for all in authority, for the church, for our community,  
and those on our prayer list ...*

Let us pray together,

**Thank you, Father for hearing our prayers. Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We conclude by praying as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### *Confession*

*Assistant:* Our Good Shepherd, the overseer of our souls, has told us that he knows us and is aware of our weaknesses and vulnerabilities. *Let us therefore, confess our sins, mindful of God's promise to hear us.*

**God of mercy, we humbly admit that we need your help.**

**We have wandered from your way.**

**We have sinned in thought, word and deed,**

**and failed to do what is right. You alone can save us.**

**Have mercy on us, wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.**

**Bring forth in us the fruit of your Spirit**

**that we may live the new life to your glory.**

**This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.**

## *Promise of Forgiveness*

God desires that none should perish but that all should turn to Christ and live. In response to his call we acknowledge our sins. God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly believe the gospel. Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## *Greeting of Peace*

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

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

## *Thanksgiving and Communion*

The Lord be with you **And also 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 thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And now we give you thanks that you raised him to the life triumphant,  
and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned,  
a broken world is restored, and we are made whole once more.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and this wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks, he broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

'Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples saying,

'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

You are the Saviour of the world. *Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded;  
proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

### *The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion*

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread: **so, may your church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.** Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

*Announcements:* Please refer to the church newsletter for notices

### *Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord*

Living God, in this holy meal you fill us with new hope. May the power of your love, which we have known in word and sacrament, continue your saving work among us. Give us courage as we await the refreshment of your coming Spirit and bring us to the joys you promise.

**Father, you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

### *The Blessing*

*The Minister says,*

Almighty God, you have redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ, and raised us to newness of life through the waters of baptism. You brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom. May the eternal God give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance; and the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all ever more.  
**Amen.**

*Assistant:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

### *Closing Hymn: There is a Green Hill*

There is a green hill far away  
without a city wall,  
where the dear Lord was crucified,  
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell  
what pains He had to bear;  
but we believe it was for us  
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,  
He died to make us good,  
that we might go at last to heaven,  
saved by His precious blood.

There was no other good enough  
to pay the price of sin;  
He only could unlock the gate  
of heaven and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has He loved,  
and we must love Him too,  
and trust in His redeeming blood,  
and try His works to do.

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