

# The Season of Easter

April 19, 2026 | 10:00am



More Than Enough

*Paul is Converted, Ananias has Courage*



Welcome! We're glad you're here!



If you are a guest and are interested in knowing more about this community and the ministries that Holy Shepherd is engaged in, please add your information on the clipboard located at the **Information Center** kiosk. You may add as much information as you'd like to share. We look forward to getting to know you!

Trusting God + Loving the World

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

## Call to Worship

Our God calls us from our daily tasks.

**We come before God with joy.**

Let us honor this sacred time together.

**We are listening, O God. Speak to us.**

Let us answer God's call to be community.

**We are ready, O God. Nourish us for the work of the Spirit.**

## Confession & Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

Merciful God,

**Give us the willingness to be honest with ourselves, with one another, and with you about the ways in which we have caused harm in this world. Give us the openness to see where our actions or failures to act have led to pain in those closest to us and in those far away. Do not let us sink further into self-harm through self-blame and hatred, but give us the courage to set right our wrongs, and to return to you again and again for forgiveness.**

The risen God has raised you to newness of life in Jesus' name. You are in Christ a new creation, and God forgives you every wrong. Celebrate with all of creation a world redeemed, and lavish the love you have received on all that is. Amen.

# Hymn of Praise

*Refrain*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

## Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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 Day

God of mystery,

**You come to us in obvious and subtle ways, calling us into your work of love and service to you and our neighbors near and far. Help us to recognize you in all those we encounter, that we might know you are near, guiding and equipping us for the work ahead. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song*

*Saul, the vicious persecutor of Jesus' followers, is struck blind on the road to Damascus by Jesus himself, who then tells Saul to wait for further instruction. God then sends Ananias, one of said followers, to confront his persecutor head on, and even worse, to accept that this man has been chosen by Jesus to spread the gospel!*

## Scripture Reading

Acts 9:1-19a

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup>He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup>I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:24

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>“No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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

## + Children's Time +



### Children's Church

Children age 3yrs – 4<sup>th</sup> grade.  
After children's message, meet the  
leader in back of church.



## Message

*(a moment of silence follows the message)*

## Song

**Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen**

ELW 548

**Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,  
from this meal of love and grace;  
may we through such love envision  
whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
Alleluia, alleluia;  
God, the wonder of our days.**

**Rise, transformed, and choose to follow  
after Christ, though wounded, whole;  
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed  
to release and to console.**

**Alleluia, alleluia;  
Christ, our present, past, and goal.**

**Rise, remember well the future  
God has called us to receive;  
present by God's loving nurture,  
Spirited then let us live.**

**Alleluia, alleluia;  
Spirit, grace by whom we live.**

**Service be our sure vocation;  
courage be our daily breath;  
mercy be our destination  
from this day and unto death.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.  
Rise, O church, a living faith.**

## **Proclamation of Faith**

*With the whole church, let us confess our faith.*

**God – who created the light and separated it from the darkness  
– I Believe**

**Jesus – who is the light and shines in the darkness yet is not overcome by it  
– I Believe**

**Spirit – who spreads the light into the darkness of our world  
– I Believe.**

## **Prayers of the People**

With renewed confidence in your power and love, we pray for the church,  
the world, and all in need.

*Prayer response:*  
God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Hear all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and gather them into your loving arms,  
for the sake of our risen savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Sharing God's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who on the cross joined with all creation in the fullness of suffering and death, and in rising brought new life to all. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, with angels and archangels, cherubim, and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy

ELW 191

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;  
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in your name.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Invitation

The one who met Saul on the road to Damascus now meets us in this meal of bread and wine. Come to the table and be transformed by the saving power of Jesus' death and resurrection, now and always. All is prepared for you.



+ All are welcome at the table +

### Options for receiving Holy Communion

Please come forward to the front where the pastors are standing. Come forward starting with the front pews, there will be no ushers. After you have received communion please exit by the side aisles and put your empty cup in the basket. There are kneelers on each side where you are free to kneel and pray before you return to your seat. Bread (gluten-free) and wine or grape juice (center of the tray) will be given to you with the words spoken:

***“The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.”***

If you would like communion served in the pew, please signal to a pastor or let the usher in the back know.

***You are invited...*** To bring **offering** forward during Holy Communion or before or after worship. The offering is gathered in front of the church in front of the communion table (altar) where we are reminded of God's gifts given to us in Christ and our response to these gifts.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world  
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you are the way of mercy and love.  
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world  
Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

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*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

ELW 712

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Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.

## Prayer after Communion

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.**

*God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world.*

## Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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.

**Amen.**

## Sending Song

***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!***

ELW 385

**Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our king!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Lord of life is ris'n this day;  
death's mighty stone is rolled away;  
let all the world rejoice and say:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Praise we in songs of victory  
that love, that life, which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
and sing today with one accord,  
the life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## Sending

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Postlude



### Worship Leadership

Pastors .....	Julie Brooks, Kim Gonia
Pianist/Organist .....	Chris Johnson
Reader .....	Christi Young
Communion Assistants .....	Del Felton, Jon Johnson
Greeters .....	Gail & Taz Walkowich
Usher.....	Del Felton
Altar Guild .....	Susie DiPaolo
Children's Church .....	Children's Church Team
Worship Technology .....	Diane Klinkerfues, Mark Lee

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## WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES

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**THANK YOU** for being considerate of disabled worshippers and their families. Please leave the pew cuts and several adjoining seats available for those with walkers & wheelchairs.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES** are located at the sound booth located in the back of the sanctuary on the east side. You can also download the app WaveCast Receiver which is designed for hearing aids with Bluetooth capability. See our sound engineer Mark, in the sound booth if you have any questions. (*Back of the sanctuary, SE corner*).

**CANDLE STATION** is available for candle-lighting. (*In the back of the sanctuary*).

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## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING (FELLOWSHIP)

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After worship, you are invited to get to know one another for the first – or 100<sup>th</sup> time, in the narthex (behind the sanctuary) or in the fellowship hall with coffee and snacks.

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## OFFERING

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Your financial gifts support Holy Shepherd and its vision to nurture trusting relationships with God and with one another, along with its vision to engage in generous activities that serve to love the world as Jesus has shown us. Cash, or checks made out to Holy Shepherd, can be placed in the front bowl by the front pews on your way to communion. (Envelopes are available in your pews if you'd like.) You can also scan the QR code to the left and give through Tithely. *Thank you for your generosity.*

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## KIDS

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**Kids Zone** (un-staffed) is available your family to use if you need a place to step out with kids during the service. It is located off the hallway west of the sanctuary and has a television available for watching the worship live-stream.

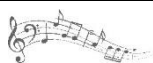
**Kid busy bags** are located in the narthex (outside the sanctuary) and contain kid friendly items for families to take into worship. Please return to the stand after worship.

**Children's Church** is offered after the kids, typically 3 years old to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, come up for *Children's Time* with the pastor. This optional activity is during the pastor's message and is led by an adult. It is located in the room just through the nursery off the west hallway of the sanctuary.

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### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

920 Kipling Street, Lakewood, CO 80215 303.233.2740

[www.holyshepherd.com](http://www.holyshepherd.com)

Mailing address: P.O. Box 150265, Lakewood 80215