

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Jean Welch, piano – "Blessed Assurance," arr. Bottomley

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “Holy Is the Lord”

**We stand and lift up our hands for the joy of the Lord is our strength.
We bow down and worship Him now, how great, how awesome is He!
And together we sing, ev’ryone sing:**

**Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory,
The earth is filled with His glory. *Repeat***

**It is rising up all around, it’s the anthem of the Lord’s renown.
It’s rising up all around, it’s the anthem of the Lord’s renown.
And together we sing, ev’ryone sing:**

**Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the earth is filled with His glory,
The earth is filled with His glory.**

**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.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: God of freedom, Paul and Silas worshiped you, even when they were flogged and imprisoned. Transform our hearts so that we may also rejoice in you at all times and in all situations.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ’s Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of Praise: “When in Our Music God is Glorified” ELW 851

- 1 When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!**
- 2 How oft, in making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!**
- 3 So has the church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue: Alleluia!**
- 4 And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!**
- 5 Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise;
let all rejoice who have a voice to raise;
and may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!**

WORD

Reading: Acts 16:16-34

Reader: Sharon Woodworth

¹⁶One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.” ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.

²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:* Luke 6:17-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁷He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

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

Song – “Christ Be Our Light” ELW 715

1. **Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.**

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. **Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow’r to save us. Make us your living voice. Refrain**
3. **Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. Refrain**
4. **Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. Refrain**
5. **Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. Refrain**

Sermon: “Paul and Silas”

Song of the Day – “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us” ELW 707

- 1 **Lord of glory, you have bought us with your lifeblood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice;
and with that have freely given blessings countless as the sand
to the unthankful and the evil with your own unsparing hand.**
- 2 **Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness melt our thankless hearts of stone
till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by you, at length believe
that more happy and more blessed 'tis to give than to receive.**

- 3 **Wondrous honor you have given to our humblest charity
in your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to me."
Naked, sick, in prison, hungry—in the least, your face we view,
saying by your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you."**
- 4 **Lord of glory, you have bought us with your lifeblood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, hope, to stay our souls on you:
but, oh, best of all your graces, with your love our love renew.**

**The 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*

Stewardship Time

"Sweet Hour of Prayer," arr. Jackson
sung by Kelly Hartz, Terri Kimler, & Kris Roth

*—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are
communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate
as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God
through the use of our time, talents, and finances—*

**Offering Prayer*

P: Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen


SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION



☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... and join their unending hymn:



☑ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: 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.

**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.

Communion Songs

“God Forgave My Sin in Jesus’ Name”

**1. God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name; I’ve been born again in Jesus’ name;
And in Jesus’ name I come to you To share his love as he told me to.**

*Refrain: He said, “Freely, freely you have received: Freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and, because you believe, Others will know that I live.”*

**2. All power is given in Jesus’ name, In earth and heaven in Jesus’ name;
And in Jesus’ name I come to you To share his power as he told me to. Refrain**

“Blest Are They” ELW 728

1. **Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.**

*Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!*

2. **Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. *Refrain***
3. **Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God. *Refrain***
4. **Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs. *Refrain***
5. **Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice, be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see. *Refrain***

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor, and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “Now Thank We All Our God” ELW 840*

- 1 **Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

- 2 **Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.**
- 3 **All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

“Holy Is the Lord,” by Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio, ©2003 worshiptogether.com songs. Used by permission.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission.

“Sweet Hour of Prayer,” by William Walford. Public domain.

“God Forgave My Sin in Jesus’ Name (Freely, Freely),” text and tune by Carol Owens,

© 1972 by Lexicon Music, Inc. CCLI#973583

The altar plants are donated today by Larry & Mary Kuster
in memory of the late Donald Kuster’s birthday

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker

Greeter: Vicki Robson

Reader: Sharon Woodworth

Ushers: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Guest Pastor: Bishop Em. S. John Roth

Music Director: Jean Welch

Musician: Jean Welch

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Mindy Carlson & Greg Kimler

Chancel Committee: Mary Jane Esslinger

Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



Singers:

Maddie Crossin	Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street
Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kevin Krohe	Monica Proefrock	Cory Street
Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker	John Williams

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, April 26, 9:30am: Worship **Friends from Faith**

11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

Wednesday, April 29, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

Thursday, April 30, 1:00pm: Discipleship Core Team

Saturday, May 2, 8:00am: Cooking for
9:00am: Men's Breakfast

Sunday, May 3, 9:30am: Outdoor Worship
10:30am: Picnic & Planting Day

Wednesday, May 6, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Summer Worship Schedule

Our Worship Team and Council continue to strive to listen to our congregation as we plan our worship. Recently, they have heard how much we value our blended services where we worship together and have also requested more outdoor services. As a result, they have decided to alternate between outdoor and indoor worship services through the summer with one blended service each Sunday. Magnets with the summer schedule are available to help keep us all on track. **We will be outdoors on May 3, 17, and 31, and indoors on May 10 and 24.** As always, outdoor services will move indoors in poor weather, and we have solid-surface seating available on the parking lot and air-conditioned seating indoors in the Justice Room.

Faith's Little Flock — (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

Spring Altar Flowers for Faith's Gardens

We are purchasing flowers each week for the altar that will then be planted in our church gardens. If you would like to donate a plant, the cost is \$15, and you can sign up at the podium in the Gathering Area.

Picnic & Planting Day at Faith

Join us after church on **Sunday, May 3**, for a Picnic & Planting Day at Faith! We're inviting everyone to stay after worship for food, fellowship, and outdoor planting to help spruce up our garden spaces. Kids and adults are welcome—there will be jobs for all ages. Picnic food will be provided. This special day is a collaboration between the Garden Team and the GIFT Team—come ready to eat, connect, and get your hands a little dirty!

Post-Service Discussions

After the service, grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Faith Library**. We gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We are utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin.

Summer Youth Camps

Performing Arts Camp (PAC) at Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center is for youth entering grades 5-12 and will take place on June 12-13, 19-20, and 26-27. Cost is \$50/camper.

Fire in Our Hearts (FIOH) at Green Pastures is for youth entering grades 5-12 and will take place on July 13-17 and 27-31. Cost is \$135/camper.

If needed, scholarships are available.

Registration link: <http://www.greenpasturesretreatcenter.org/registration>.

For more information call: 217-584-1374

Email: contact@greenpasturesretreatcenter.org