

## Introit

**A** I am the good | shepherd.\*  
I know My own and My own  
know Me,  
and I lay down My life | for the sheep.



**C** Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;\*  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!

Let us come into His presence with thanks- | giving;\*  
let us make a joyful noise to Him with | songs of praise!

For the LORD is a | great God,\*  
and a great King a- | bove all gods.

Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;\*  
let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!

For He | is our God,\*  
and we are the people of His pasture,  
and the sheep | of His hand.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

**A** I am the good | shepherd.\*  
I know My own and My own know Me,  
and I lay down My life | for the sheep.

(Psalm 95:1-3, 6-7a; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b)

## Collect of the Day

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## First Reading – Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they

were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

## Gradual

**A** Christ has risen | from the dead.\*  
[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.  
He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;\*  
he has put all things un- | der his feet.

## Epistle – 1 Peter 2:19-25

This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

## The Holy Gospel – John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] "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. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

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<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

### *The Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ Is Our Good Shepherd*

Although we *"were straying like sheep,"* the Lord Jesus Christ has willingly suffered and died for us, bearing our sins *"in his body on the tree"* (1 Peter 2:24–25). We are healed by His wounds (1 Peter 2:24), and in His resurrection He gathers us to Himself as our Good Shepherd, by whose righteousness we *"have life and have it abundantly"* (John 10:10). Now through other shepherds whom He calls and sends in His name, He guards and keeps us in the green pastures of His Church, leading us beside the quiet waters of our Baptism and spreading the feast of His table before us. Since He has called us by the Gospel to be His own dear sheep, we also *"hear his voice"* and *"know his voice"* (John 10:3–4) in the faithful preaching of His Gospel, and we follow Him by faith. When we receive His Gospel, we have the abundant life and common unity of the entire flock under one Good Shepherd, in *"the apostles' teaching and the fellowship"* and in *"the breaking of bread and the prayers"* (Acts 2:42).



Soli Deo Gloria

## *Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church*

*The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*

**A Biblical, Confessional and Traditional congregation in the Chicago region committed to ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Jesus Christ.**

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**April 26, 2026**

### **The Divine Service of Holy Communion**

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**A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME** to all who gather in the Lord's House today. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God, around the throne of the risen Lamb, to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church, for it is through His Word and Sacraments that the risen Christ delivers forgiveness, life, and salvation. Therefore, the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts toward His people through His Word and Sacraments to bestow His Easter gifts of life and victory over sin, death, and the devil. That is why the Liturgy is called the "Divine Service"—it is God's service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper, where the risen Christ gives His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith.

#### **Dear Visitors and Friends:**

The congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of "Closed Communion." **If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord's Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **We do invite those who are not a member of the LCMS to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, as you kneel at the altar, please cross your arms so that your right hand is on your left shoulder and left hand is on your right shoulder. God bless you for Your understanding.**