



**Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School  
Grafton, WI  
April 26, 2026**

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Today's Focus:** He lives to be my good shepherd. Without the resurrection of Jesus, I would have to choose my own direction in life. I would be terrible at it, because, like a sheep, I can generally see only what's in front of me at the moment, and I get myself into trouble. It is especially difficult for me to look far into my future as planned by Jesus. If he had not risen from the dead, I would be on my own.

But he lives, and it makes a difference. I have the reliable direction of the Good Shepherd. He feeds us with his Word. He protects us from the roaring lion, Satan. He is leading us into the green pastures of eternal life. For centuries, the Church has observed this Fourth Sunday of Easter to celebrate that Jesus lives to be our Good Shepherd.

**Stewardship from God's Word:** Acts 2:42-47

It goes together: growing in faith through the gospel of Jesus, and living a life that exhibits that faith. In early Jerusalem, the Christians devoted themselves to Christ's Word and sacraments, prayer, and fellowship. As a result, they were moved to great generosity, sharing with those who were in need. May the Lord bless us with such hearts that we show the same generosity as we give to those in need and bring the world what it needs the most: the good news about Jesus.

**Welcome!**

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### SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding:

Pastor Samelson

Organist:

Bob Klug

Pastor: Jonathan Fischer

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*The 10:30 service is livestreamed for our members at home.*



**Our Savior**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

1332 Arrowhead Rd, Grafton, WI

[OurSaviorGrafton.org](http://OurSaviorGrafton.org)

Church 262-377-6363

School 262-377-7780

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Confession**

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

For you a -



lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,



with the Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of



God the Fa-ther. A-men. A-men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his



peo-ple on earth.

# The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Acts 2:42-47*

<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 favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 23C The LORD Is My Shepherd

Psalm 23C

### Refrain



The LORD is my shep - herd,  
I shall not be in want.

### Tone



The LORD is my / shepherd,  
I lack / nothing.

The LORD is my / shepherd,

I lack / nothing.

He makes me lie down in green / pastures,

he leads me beside quiet / waters,

he refreshes / my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his / name's sake.

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. *Refrain*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my / enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup / overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days / of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for- / ever.

**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. *Refrain***

## Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19–25

<sup>19</sup>For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. <sup>20</sup>But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup>To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup>When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” <sup>25</sup>For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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

## This is the Day

Natalie Sleeth

The students of Our Savior will sing at the 10:30 a.m. service.

*Refrain:*

*"This is the day that the Lord has made!  
Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!  
This is the day that the Lord has made!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!"*

*Verse 1:*

*"Christ has conquered death at last,  
Left the tomb that held him fast!  
Gone the sorrow, gone the night,  
Dawns the morning clear and bright!"*

*Verse 2:*

*"Jesus lives who once was dead!  
Crown of glory on His head.  
Risen now our Lord and King,  
Songs of gladness let us sing!"*

*Stand*

## **Gospel**

*John 10:1–10*

<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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

*CW 552*

## **Don't Get Too Comfortable!**

*Space is provided for you to take notes during the sermon.*

*Stand*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Prayer of the Church

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Loving Shepherd of the sheep, fill us with contentment and confidence during this season as we celebrate your Easter victory. You laid down your life for the sheep and then rose again to assure us that you give us eternal life.

**Good Shepherd, save us.**

Strengthen our faith to follow where you lead, to the green pastures of your Word, the quiet waters of our baptism, and the gracious table of your body and blood where our cup overflows with your forgiving love. Guide us to find in you the gate that leads to safety and good pastures.

**Good Shepherd, lead us.**

Guard and protect us from those who want to lead us astray and snatch us out of your hand. Give us courage to fight against the devil and wisdom to recognize false teachers. Lead us to honor and follow those you have called to shepherd your flock, the Church.

**Good Shepherd, guide us.**

Let your rod and your staff comfort us and all your sheep in times of sickness and sadness and especially when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. [We include in our prayers today... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] May we find in your redemption and your Father's resolve the unbreakable promise that we will dwell in your house forever.

**Good Shepherd, console us.**

Move us to reach out to sheep who are not yet a part of our sheep pen but whom you have claimed as your own. Give us your passion to search for the sheep who are lost and lead us to rejoice when they have been found.

**Good Shepherd, inspire us.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We thank you for all the blessings we have gained from your goodness: family and friends, wealth and health, work and leisure. Give us wisdom to long for and cherish your more precious gifts, your Word and sacraments, so that your goodness and love may follow us all the days of our life.

**Good Shepherd, hear us. Amen.**

## Offering

*Our Savior's ministries are supported by the joyful and generous gifts of her members. If you are not a member of Our Savior, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. It is our privilege and pleasure to serve you with God's Word today. You may make your gift in the following ways:*

**Give In person:** The offering is collected during each service.

**Give with the App:** Download the *Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement* app, search near me and select "Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran".

**Give Online** [Oursaviorgrafton.org/give](https://oursaviorgrafton.org/give).



During the offering, please sign the friendship register located in each pew.  
Or use the following QR code to log attendance online:



**Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep**

CW 551

*Stand*

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

# Christ, the Word of God Incarnate

CW 528 sts. 1, 4, 6



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of  
4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, watch - ing all your  
6 Christ, the Al - pha and O - me - ga, Christ, the first - born



A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,  
lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,  
from the dead; Christ, the life and res - ur - rec - tion,



per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, you  
nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good  
Christ, the Church's glo - rious head: praise and thanks and



shine un - van - quished, light and life you bring to all; light our  
Shep - herd, seek us, find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of  
ad - o - ra - tion and un - end - ing wor - ship be to the



path with your own pres - ence, grant us grace to heed your call.  
God, our shep - herd, keep us; let us hear your voice a - lone.  
Fa - ther and the Spir - it and to you e - ter - nal - ly.

## **Acknowledgments**

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