



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2026

AS WE GATHER



The place where we worship is often called the Lord's house. It is a sacred space, a holy house, and more. It is our blessed home. English clergyman Isaac Watts, who authored hundreds of hymn texts during his life, concluded his paraphrase of the Twenty-Third Psalm in this memorable way: "The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; oh, may His house be my abode and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home" (OAR 272). We are so much more than strangers or guests here today. We are children at home. Paul writes to the Ephesians and to us, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children" (Ephesians 5:1).

THE PRELUDE

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

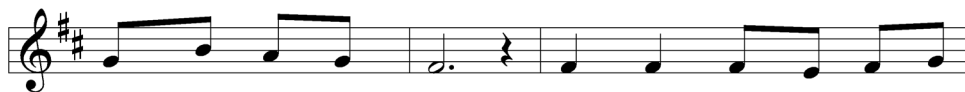
Stand

INVOCATION HYMN

711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we
2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and
4 Ear - ly let us seek Your fa - vor, Ear - ly



need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures
guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -
sin - ful though we be; You have mer - cy to re -
let us do Your will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly



feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.
fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.
lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Sav - ior, With Your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have



bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 let us turn to You. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,

bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.
 bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.
C I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You."
P The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.
C The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
P Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.
C You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Kneel for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

ABSOLUTION

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **✝** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. 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.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42–47

A The First Reading is from Acts, chapter 2.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 23; antiphon: v. 1

- A** The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
- C** **He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.**
- A** He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- C** **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.**
- A** You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- C** **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:19–25

- A** The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter 2.

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For 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. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When 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. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For you

were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

John 6:68

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[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. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

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

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
 love He sought me And on His shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 Thine unction grace bestoweth;
 And, oh, what transport of delight
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
 Thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
 Within Thy house forever!

SERMON

The Voice of the Shepherd

Pastor Mark Stapeton

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
 And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

Kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the whole Church, that through it the goodness of God be shared and the Good News of salvation joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world.
Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for those who are in need, assured of the Shepherd's care for all of His sheep. Help us to meet the needs of those who travel with us through life as we are led by our Good Shepherd day by day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for the nations of the world, asking that still waters of peace flow around the globe and that there be goodness and kindness among all peoples. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for our families and everyone in them. Together help us to follow the Good Shepherd as one flock in which all dwell together in love and unity. Lord, in Your mercy,




C hear our prayer.

- P** We pray for those whose tables are set in difficult or challenging places, whose lives know want or discord or sadness or continuing illness, [*especially*]. Gently guide them with Your rod and staff, Good Shepherd, and keep them ever with You. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

- P** With gratefulness we remember those who already dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Inspire us to pass throughout our earthly journeys with faith and hope as we heed the voice of our Good Shepherd and follow in His ways. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer. Amen

Sit

OFFERING

Ways to Give	IN-PERSON	MAIL	ONLINE		Zelle	
		505 S Park Road La Grange IL 60525	VANCO			

ANTHEM | 10:45am

THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

*The king of love my shepherd is whose goodness faileth never;
I am nothing lack if I am His and he is mine forever.*

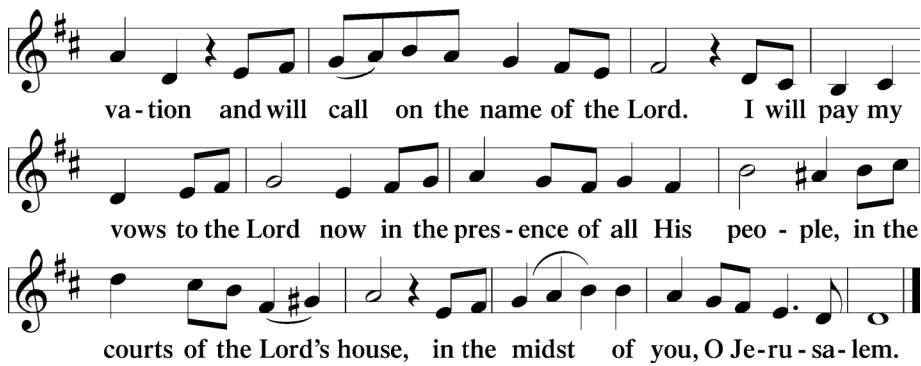
Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa - lem.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;
 2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed When Christ lay in the tomb;
 3 This is a sight that glad - dens—What peace it doth im - part!



Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.
 But lo, he now is rout - ed, His boast is turned to gloom.
 Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens The joy with - in my heart.



My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made
 For Christ a - gain is free; In glo - rious vic - to - ry
 No gloom shall ev - er shake, No foe shall ev - er take



When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.
 He who is strong to save Has tri - umphed o'er the grave.
 The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

The Cantata Choir | 10:45am

Dana Shinneman, Piano

JoAnn Pyritz, Lector | 8:00am

Sherrie Smith, Lector | 10:45am

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers at the Altar today are given to the Glory of God with thanksgiving from Sharon Broz in memory of husband Dick's (father of Jenn Behnke) heavenly birthday on April 27, and in celebration of daughter Jenn Behnke's earthly birthday on April 28.

Flowers at the Altar on April 19 were given to the Glory of God in memory of my mother, Ethel Stodden, by Ruth and Ron Gallman.

MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

The Music Ministry at St. John's is entirely supported by the generosity of our congregation through contributions to the Music Fund. This fund enables us to offer uplifting and inspirational sacred vocal and instrumental music that enriches our worship and glorifies God.



The three pillars of Christian stewardship—time, talent, and treasure—are essential for any music program to flourish and grow. In that spirit, the Board of Worship invites you to prayerfully consider supporting the Music Fund. White contribution envelopes are available in the pews, and online donations may also be made.

We humbly extend our deepest gratitude to all whose generous contributions to the **Music Fund** have brought our worship to life through the transcendent gift of music, enriching our services with beauty, reverence, and heartfelt devotion.

Anonymous Donors
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Rev Mark & Kristen Stapleton
Marilyn Strombom
Kary Tosch - Higgins
Steven & Jennifer Westol
Stephen Zimmerman

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL NEWS

"Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is well underway here at St. John's. We are so grateful to God for continuing to send us families that want their children to be at a Christ-centered school.

The Board of Education is thankful for all our faithful volunteers already working with Special Events, Preschool chapel, music classes and library time. To support our growing school, please consider one or more of the following:

- 1) *Recommend our Preschool and Kindergarten to your family, friends and neighbors.*
- 2) *Give or continue to give to the Annual Fund (goes directly to support the school.)*
- 3) *Participate in TRIP program (goes toward school scholarship fund.)*
- 4) *Assist with delivery of flyers to local churches and families.*
- 5) *Pray for the school staff and Board of Education members, as well as more students and families that need to hear the Good News about Jesus.*
- 6) *Volunteer to help at a Special Event - look for information coming soon about a special May event.*

The day school here at St. John's has always been a big outreach ministry of our church. Our school is smaller, but our mission remains the same - teaching children and their families about the love of Jesus while providing excellent academic education with a Christian worldview.



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