

Fourth Sunday of Easter

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

April 26, 2026



Welcome to St. Andrew!

At St. Andrew Lutheran Church, we strive to be a loving and welcoming community of faith. We are centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

All are welcome, without exception, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental ability, education, income, or family status.

All are welcome here to worship God, receive the sacraments, and share in fellowship, leadership, and service. We commit to treasuring one another's similarities and differences as one body in Christ.

We are called to provide a safe space in the community as we break down the barriers of isolation. We understand that being truly welcoming involves actively working against racism, heteronormativity, sexism, transphobia, ageism, ableism, classism, and other forces that seek to divide and oppress. We commit to continuing to discover what it means to be "Reconciling in Christ."

"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
-Romans 15:7

Orientation to the Service

This bulletin will guide you through the entire service. Starting on page 3, words printed in **bold** are for everyone to say aloud together. Instructions and information are printed in *italics*.

Hymns (songs) are found in the hymnals in the pew racks in front of your seat.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

ACS = All Creation Sings (blue hymnal)

Green-topped Welcome Cards are found in the pew racks in front of your seat. We would love for guests, visitors, and anyone in need of prayer or more information about the church to fill one out. Please place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.

Children are welcome in worship! God put the wiggle in children, so please do not feel you have to shush or suppress those wiggles in God's house. All are welcome here! Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is happening in the service. There are worship activity bags available for children on a shelf in the back of the sanctuary, and a staffed nursery is available for very young ones. Ask an usher if you need help locating it.

Restrooms can be found by exiting the back of the sanctuary and turning right. Walk straight until you pass the coffee bar, and you will find the women's and men's restrooms to your right. An all-gender, ADA-compliant restroom will be found to your left, near the door to the kitchen.

Online access to the bulletin and hymns: standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026 | 9:30 AM

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

PRELUDE *Savior like a Shepherd Lead Us*, William B. Bradbury, arr. Susan Reiser
Bells of Grace, directed by John Gladen

GATHERING

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

GROUNDING IN OUR VALUES

The congregation sings verse 1:



1. We are one in the Spi-rit we are one in the Lord; we are
2. We are one in the wat-er, we are one in the flow; we are
3. We will walk witheach oth-er we will walk hand in hand, we will
4. All praise the cre - a - tor from whom all things come, and all



one in the Spi-rit we are one in the Lord; and we pray that all
one in the wat-er we are one in the flow; we are one with the
walk witheach oth-er we will walk hand in hand, and to - ge - ther we'll
praise to Christ Je - sus the ri - sen one, and all praise to the

Refrain



un - i - ty will one day be re-stored. And they'll know we are Christ-ians by our
Earth and with the life that we grow.
build a world where hearts can ex-pand.
Spi - rit who makes us one.



love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Christ-ians by our love

In the waters of baptism, we are joined to the death and resurrection of Christ. In a world filled with violence and suffering, we celebrate that resurrection is always possible and always all around us.

Christ is alive! Love is planting seeds and finding new paths!

Like the Israelites crossing the sea from slavery into freedom, the path through the water leads us from bondage to liberation.

Christ is alive! Through death, God brings us to new life!

In our worship today, we attend to our five most important relationships: our relationship with God, with the earth, with our community, with our

neighbor, and with ourselves. In each of these relationships, we look for signs of resurrection.

People of God, where do you experience resurrection in your relationship with God?

We experience resurrection as we ground ourselves in the Divine. As our bodies find comfort in the rhythm of the liturgy. As our hearts re-center on love, and as our minds are opened to new possibilities. We experience resurrection as the Spirit breathes new life into our bones, returning us to who we are meant to be and who we have always been.

People of God, where do you experience resurrection in your relationship with Earth?

We experience resurrection as we watch spring unfold. As we see flowers blooming and feel the breeze on our arms. As we sink our hands into the soil, and when we walk barefoot on the grass. We experience resurrection as we watch the flow of a stream sparkling in the sun. We experience resurrection with every hint of new life.

The congregation sings verse 2, printed on the facing page.

People of God, where do you experience resurrection in your relationship with your Community?

We experience resurrection when we find community that aligns with our values. When we feel known and needed. When we share our resources with one another and find a way to use our gifts. We experience resurrection when we are able to make a collective impact on the wider world. When we stand in solidarity with the oppressed, singing songs of hope and speaking justice into being.

People of God, where do you experience resurrection in your relationship with your Neighbor?

We experience resurrection when we love deeply and when we are deeply loved. When we share who we are, and when we learn something new about another. We experience resurrection when a broken relationship is healed. When a new connection is made, or an existing connection is deepened. We experience resurrection when part of ourselves is healed through the love of another.

The congregation sings verse 3, printed on page 4.

People of God, where do you experience resurrection in your relationship with Yourself?

We experience resurrection when we honor the Life that is in us. When we attend to our bodies, and listen to the wisdom they carry. When we respect our hearts and our intuitions. We experience resurrection when we accept ourselves and are compassionate towards ourselves. We experience resurrection when we take the time to get to know ourselves.

Christ is alive! Love is planting seeds and finding new paths!
Christ is alive! Through death, God brings us to new life!

The congregation sings verse 4, printed on page 4.

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 THE DAY

Let us pray together.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Allison Bengfort

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

God of love, bless these quilts and the creators of these quilts. Carry these quilts safely to their recipients around the world. We pray that the compassion that has been stitched into each quilt will bring love and hope. May these quilts be a refuge of warmth and comfort. May their recipients know deep in their hearts that God is with them every moment of every day. May these quilts remind everyone of God's unshakeable love, and may they bring sweet dreams and, through the Holy Spirit, a peace which passes all understanding.

Amen.

Elementary-aged children (grades K-5) are invited to attend The Roots Children's Church, led by trained St. Andrew volunteers and located in the Children's Library downstairs. Parents are welcome to observe. The children will return to worship in time to receive communion.

READING

Acts 2:42-47

A reading from Acts.

⁴²The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go 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.”

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

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system consists of a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The music is in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Be not a - fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!". The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Pr. Allison Bengfort

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Shepherd Me, O God | ELW 780

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*All are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (handshake, hug, peace sign, etc.).
Placing your hands together in a praying position will signal to those around you that you prefer not to physically touch others.*

The congregation is seated.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As resurrection people, every moment offers us an opportunity to divest from the power of death and invest in the power of new life. How are you being called to use whatever resources you have to co-create a world of flourishing for all? You are invited to share your offerings now, so that together, we might roll away every stone of injustice, oppression, and harm so that all may know the true power of Love.

Contributions to St. Andrew Lutheran Church may be placed in the offering plate or made online by scanning the QR code to the right. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERING

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

The congregation is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are invited to commune without exception! At the direction of an usher, those wishing to commune may proceed down the center aisle. A piece of gluten-free bread will be placed in your hands. You may dip the bread in the wine (red chalice) or the grape juice (light-colored chalice), or you may choose to partake of bread only. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please alert an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONG

Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need | ELW 782

The congregation may stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

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.

BLESSING OF COMMUNION MINISTERS

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Christ:
Bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our absent
siblings. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom they
bring communion, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made
known in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

BLESSING

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 HYMN

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine | ELW 774

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Serving Today in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pr. Allison Bengfort
Preacher: Pr. Allison Bengfort
Assisting Minister: Tom Mehlhorn
Altar Guild: Liz Hardy
Children's Church: Cindy Stadel
Communion Assistant:
Lector: Lee Anne Knapp

Musician: Karl Gustafson
Nursery Assistant: Amy Peahl
Tech Team: Chase Isaacson
Ushers:
Welcome Team: Amy Fiegenbaum
Worship Coordinator: Liz Hardy
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

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