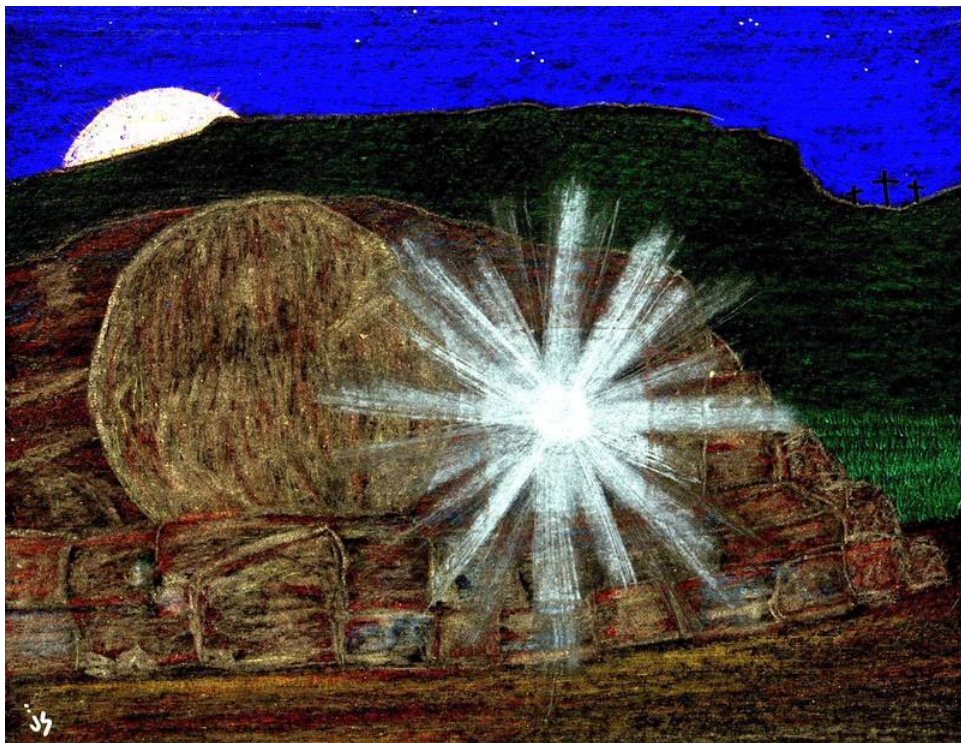


# Fourth Sunday of Easter

## April 26, 2026



*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.*



**ZION**  
Ministries Under the Cross

959 SE 6th Avenue • Deerfield Beach, FL 33441  
(954) 421-3146 • [www.zion-lutheran.org](http://www.zion-lutheran.org)

# Welcome to Zion!

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***“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said.”***

(Matthew 28:5-6)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we’re glad you’re here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God’s goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

## Get Connected at Zion

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The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

## Children in Worship

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Children are God’s gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Prayground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

## Giving

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We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



## Livestreaming

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Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

# We Gather

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

How joyful it is to celebrate the good news of God's love!

**We are called to be Easter people!**

The tomb is empty!

**Hope is alive!**

Darkness cannot claim us!

**Fear cannot bind us!**

Christ has conquered the grave!

**New life has begun!**

This good news cannot be contained!

**Let us lift our hearts in praise and our voices in song!**

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

**He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

## GATHERING HYMN

ELW Hymn #377

"Alleluia, Jesus is Risen!"

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW pp. 140-141

"This is the Feast of Victory for Our God"

## SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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. Amen.**

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

# We Hear & Respond to God's Word

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## FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

...Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM

Psalm 23

"The Good Shepherd"

Music by Cantor Peter J. Rizzo

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

...Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

*Before the reading:* The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:* The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW Hymn #502

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

# OFFERTORY HYMN & PRAYER

ELW Hymn #362

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

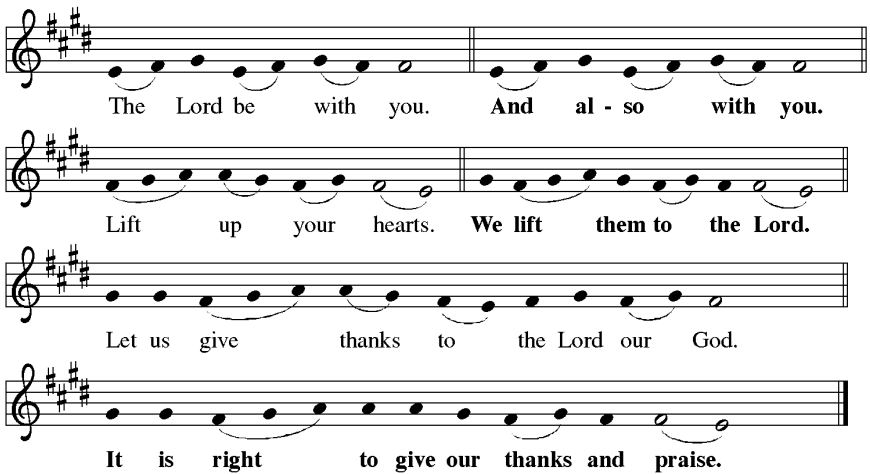
Verses 1, 2, 4, and 6

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.**

## We Feast at the Lord’s Table

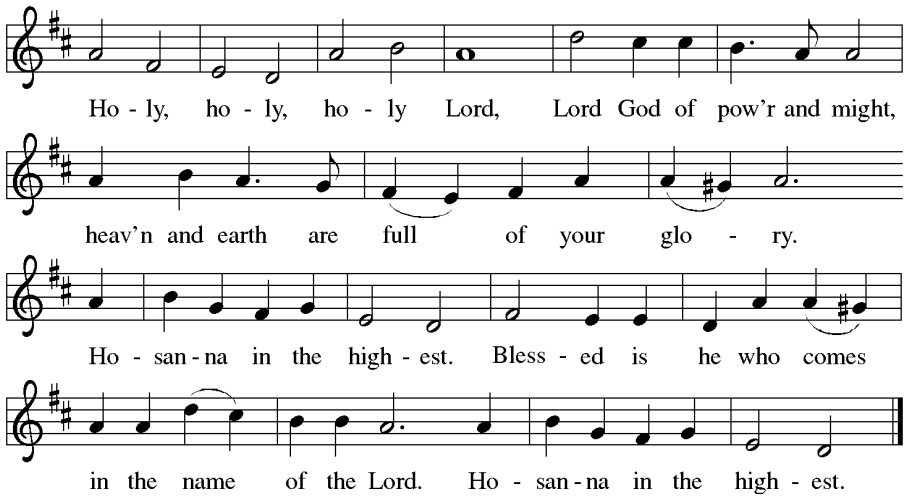
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### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

# LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - low - ed be your  
name, hal - low - ed be your name. Your king - dom come, your  
will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven, on earth as it is in hea - ven.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our  
sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for - give those who sin a -  
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from  
e - vil, de - liv - er us from e - vil. For yours is the  
king - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for  
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

## SHARING THE MEAL

“Bread of Life from Heaven”

ELW Hymn #474

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

ELW Hymn #774

## We Are Sent into the World

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### BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## 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

Beloved in the Lord, God does not leave things as they are; with God, all things are made new.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

“Hallelujah, He is Risen!”

## DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace. Share the good news that Christ is risen! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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# Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 26, 2026

## Prayer of the Day

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. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

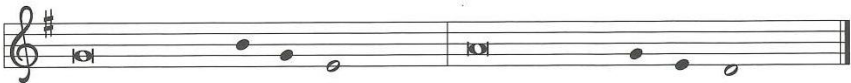
[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and

goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day 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, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## Psalm

Psalm 23; tone 11



The LORD <sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not <sup>1</sup> be in want.  
<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down  
<sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>1</sup> side still waters.  
<sup>3</sup>You restore my <sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along  
right pathways  
<sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I shall <sup>1</sup> fear no evil;

for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they <sup>1</sup> comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence <sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil,  
and my cup is <sup>1</sup> running over.  
<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow me  
all the days <sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell  
in the house of the <sup>1</sup> LORD forever.

It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so 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 he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel

John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] “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. <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 hear 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 ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know

the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

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