



**Welcome to our worship**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A**  
**April 26, 2026 10:00 a.m. Rite II**

*Welcome to St Paul's Episcopal Church. We hope that your worship with us will be meaningful and a source of blessing and peace. Please take a moment to silence all electronic devices as a way to quiet the business of the world in favor of finding yourself in the presence of God. If you need to depart early, or arrive late, please exit during the hymns discreetly so as not to disturb the worship experience for others.*

*The music in our service is generally found in the blue Hymnal 1982 (listed as "Hymnal"). Service music (e.g. S-278) is found in the front section of the Hymnal. Additional hymns may be found in the green hymnal Worship and Rejoice, (listed as "Worship").*

PRELUDE: O sons and daughters                      *Mason*

**SURELY THE PRESENCE                      Worship #131**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Welcome happy morning                      Hymnal #179**

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*Celebrant*                      Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People*                      **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**  
*Celebrant*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**SONG OF PRAISE: Gloria                      Hymnal S-280**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Celebrant*                      The Lord be with you.  
*People*                      **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*                      Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Acts 2.42-47

*The new faith community needed a specific organizational structure to maintain itself. To this end some very practical steps were taken: instruction by the apostles, the building of friendships, a communal meal and worship. The sharing of resources was of particular importance. Most of the early converts were from the poorer classes rather than the wealthy. Note that they were still accepted as faithful members of the community.*

[Those who responded to Peter's preaching] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 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, 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 23** (from *The Book of Common Prayer*)

*Ancient tradition and a title in the Hebrew Scriptures claim that this favorite psalm was from the hand of David, Israel's shepherd king.*

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.**
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his 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.**
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Peter 2.19-25

*The image of the shepherd is a focus of the end of this passage and echoes the psalm for today. Here, the faithful are being compared to sheep who have gone astray, but who have the possibility of being reunited with the shepherd, who is also the guardian of our souls."*

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. 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. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 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. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL HYMN: Shepherd of souls** **Hymnal #343**

**GOSPEL READING: John 10.1-10**

*These words speak to us of the ultimate significance of faith in Jesus as the way to abundant and eternal life. Abundant living can be defined only by the depth and meaning of one's spirituality.*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**GRADUAL HYMN: Shepherd of souls** **Hymnal #343**

**THE SERMON**

**THE 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Doug, our Bishop; Tom, our Rector; Mary, our Deacon; for the Church of Nigeria, and for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Silence*

I ask your thanksgiving for those celebrating the anniversary of their birth, especially Lee Perry, Tom Holman, Lynne Kennedy, and Leon Wieber; and those celebrating the anniversary of their marriage, especially David and Judith Hall..

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, and nurture victims of violence and warfare throughout your world, to the glory of your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **THE PEACE**

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

***Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church is open to all baptized Christians who receive it in faith as the presence of our Lord among us.***

### **The Holy Communion**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Like a Shepherd

**DOXOLOGY: Praise God from whom all blessings flow                    Old 100th**

### **The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B**

*Celebrant*                    The Lord be with you.  
*People*                        **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*                    Lift up your hearts.  
*People*                        **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant*                    Let us give thanks to the Lord.  
*People*                        **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### **SANCTUS**

<b>Holy, holy, holy—</b>	<b>Holy, holy, holy</b>
<b>Lord God of power and might—</b>	<b>Lord God of power and might</b>
<b>Heaven, heaven and earth—</b>	<b>Heaven, heaven and earth</b>
<b>Are full of your glory—</b>	<b>Are full of your glory</b>

### **Refrain**

<b>Sing Hosanna—</b>	<b>Sing Hosanna</b>
<b>Sing Hosanna—</b>	<b>Sing Hosanna</b>
<b>Sing Hosanna—</b>	<b>Sing Hosanna</b>
<b>Sing Alleluia—</b>	<b>Sing Alleluia</b>

<b>Blessed, blessed is he—</b>	<b>Blessed, blessed is he</b>
<b>Who comes in the name of the Lord—</b>	<b>Who comes in the name of the Lord</b>
<b>Refrain</b>	

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and

above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph, Blessed Paul, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMN: The king of love my shepherd is**

**Hymnal #645**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN: All creatures of our God and king**

**Hymnal #400**

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everlasting God, make our parish of St Paul's truly a community of prayer and belonging. Raise up in our midst the resources and leadership which will enable us to act upon what you would have us do, in this place and in a ministry of love and concern for others. Open my mind and heart to discern what you would have me do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Welcome visitors!**

We are glad you have joined us for worship today. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in Trinity Hall after the service.

<i>Celebrant and Preacher</i>	The Rev. Dr. Tom Thoeni
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Dr. Mary Abrams
<i>Eucharistic Minister/Altar</i>	Linda Connelly
<i>Eucharistic/Chalice</i>	Steve Carnell
<i>Lector/Intercessor</i>	Diane Augustus
<i>Usher(s)</i>	Barb & Dave Abernethy

*Active Altar Guild Members:* Philip Lindquist, Joan Allison, Diane Augustus, Rose Porembo, Mia Tajawandee, & Cindy Tysiak.

<i>Rector</i>	The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thoeni
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Dr. Mary Abrams, seasonal
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Betty Hernandez
<i>Sexton</i>	Gary Dickerson
<i>Music Director</i>	Jacque Scaduto

*Vestry*

<i>Senior Warden</i> Diane Augustus	<i>Junior Warden</i> Julio Albino
<i>Secretary</i> Jeannie Smith	<i>Treasurer</i> Rose Porembo
<i>Members:</i> Mary Lou Dogoloff, Paul Nelson, Charlene Connolly, Doug Olsen, Linda Connelly	



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