

PLATTVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH
5475 Bell Road
Minooka, Illinois 60447

April 26, 2026
9:15 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Easter

O, COME LET US WORSHIP THE LORD!

* Indicates that the congregation will stand.

PREPARATION Enter to worship

THE PRELUDE/BELL RINGING

Announcements

*The CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS p. 94

*The OPENING HYMN
"The Lord's My Shepherd" #778

*The APOSTOLIC GREETING p. 98

*The KYRIE p. 98

PRAYER AND PRAISE

* The HYMN OF PRAISE p. 99

*The PRAYER OF THE DAY *Celebrate insert*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The FIRST LESSON Acts 2:42-47

The PSALM Psalm 23 *Celebrate insert*

The SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 2:19-25

The ALLELUIA VERSE p. 102

*The HOLY GOSPEL John 10:1-10
SERMON

*The HYMN OF THE DAY
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" #502

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

*The APOSTLES' CREED p. 235

*The PRAYERS

*The SHARING OF THE PEACE

The OFFERING

*The OFFERTORY "Create in Me" *Insert in pew*

*The OFFERTORY PRAYER p. 107

*The LORD'S PRAYER p. 112

BACK INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF LIFE

*The BENEDICTION

*The CLOSING HYMN

"All People That On Earth Do Dwell" #883

*The DISMISSAL/POSTLUDE

Depart to serve

Synod Authorized
Minister
Mike Bjerum

Ministers
All Members

Lector
Bob Bols

Head Ushers
Darrell Hansen
Bob Bols
Bruce Knudson

Church Office
475-7220



Celebrate

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.

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

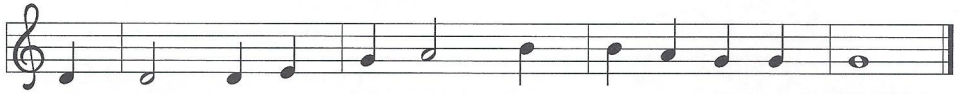
Today’s reading is a description of life in the community following Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God’s people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

[The 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.



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

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

²The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall ¹ fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me. **R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days ¹ of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever. **R**

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If 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. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

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

²³When 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. ²⁴He 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. ²⁵For 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 uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[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. 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.”

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (*especially*). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 100. **Tuesday** Hebrews 13:20-21. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380) Jeremiah 23:1-8. **Thursday** Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16. **Friday** (Philip and James, Apostles) John 14:8-14. **Saturday** (commemoration of Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373) Jeremiah 26:20-24. **Fifth Sunday of Easter** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14.

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Tracks 1 and 2

PARISH CALENDAR

"I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own and my own know me"
John 10:14

Today 9:15 Worship

Sunday, May 3rd 9:15 Worship with communion

Monday, May 11th 7:00 pm Church Council

Wednesday, May 13th 9:30 Quilting

Want to hear and sing your favorite hymn? There is a box in the entryway – fill out a sheet with what you want to hear.

Wednesday, May 20th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at Jennifer's Garden, Morris - "Celebration of Seniors" Hosted by Senior Programs of the Grundy County Health Department. Seminars, Bingo, Raffles, door prizes. See bulletin board for more details.

April 19th offering: Current \$1,038.00 Mission \$250.00
Thank you for your support!

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want"



Our Good Shepherd

The images in today's texts provide us with much food for thought and action. Psalm 23 tells of a shepherd who leads us to green pastures and refreshing waters, walks alongside us as we face challenging times, takes us to a table already set, and anoints us with oil to mark each of us as chosen. We are heard, seen, known, valued, and loved, and remain in the Shepherd's presence for all time.

Jesus' words in the gospel reading add to the image of a loving and caring shepherd. The shepherd calls each sheep by name, while the sheep follow because they recognize that voice. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows us well and calls each of us by name. Jesus also serves as the gate for the sheep, guarding and protecting us in the sheepfold, while also providing access to pastureland. This protection and access give us the space to be who we are, with no need to play games or pretend to be someone we are not. And when it comes right down to it, the Good Shepherd comes to give us abundant life—new life in relationship with God, others, and all creation.

The reading from Acts 2 provides an image of abundant life among the early Christians, a life with an extravagance of worship, fellowship, prayer, generosity, service to others, and thankfulness.

How does the image of the Good Shepherd sit with you? How do you picture the relationship between you and Jesus—with shepherd and sheep imagery, or something else? Where and how do you recognize the Good Shepherd's voice? Do you know someone who has abundant life in Christ—a life of faith, joy, and love? What would such a life look like for you, and for your faith community?