

*WELCOME TO*  
**LUTHER MEMORIAL  
CHURCH & ACADEMY**



26 APRIL 2026

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

10:30 am

## LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

### LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

*Cantor*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL,

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH,

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*LMA Principal*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

## WELCOME!

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE!

+ Everything you need to follow along in worship is included in this bulletin. You are invited to stand and sit—as you are able—as indicated herein.

+ If you have a need to **children**'s bulletins, coloring pages, crayons, or other supplies they are available on the Welcome Table. You can proceed out the door next to the pulpit and find the Welcome Table near the door.

- Children are always welcome in worship and together we make a joyful noise! However, if you have need, a staffed nursery is available down the stairs across from the Welcome Table.

+ An all-gender and accessible **restroom** is available out the door next to the pulpit, up the ramp, and to the right. Follow signs for "Handicap Bathroom." Other restrooms are available down the hallway next to Faith Chapel across from the parlor.

+ You do not need to turn off or disconnect here! However, please be mindful of those worshipping around you and turn your phones and devices to silent. Feel free to take pictures of our beautiful sanctuary or post about the sermon. However, we ask that you ask permission before taking any people pictures.

+ We welcome all to worship and to the Table trusting that it is the Holy Spirit that draws us all together. If you would like information about joining the congregation or receiving the Sacraments of the Church, be sure to talk to Pastor Jay after worship (you can usually find him next to the pulpit after the service).

**PRELUDE – "Softly and Tenderly"**

D. Wood

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

You guide us to springs of the water of life. Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

You guide us to springs of the water of life. Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

You guide us to springs of the water of life. Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**ELW 369**

**Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!**

1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!

Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!

of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807-1882, alt.  
 Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781-1821

**GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our risen savior Jesus Christ, the love of our ever-living God, and the communion of the life-breathing Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*The refrain is sung by all. High Voices: vv. 1 and 3-4 Low Voices: vv. 2 and 5*

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic to-ry for our God, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom and strength, And
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, And
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might Be to
5. For the Lamb who was slain Has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. ... *refrain*  
 hon - or, bless - ing and glo - ry are his. ... *refrain*  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: ... *to verse 4*  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men. ... *refrain*  
 gun his reign, Al - le - lu - ia! ... *final refrain*

*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic to-ry for our God, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Dignus est Agnus, tr. John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
 Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE, Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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 live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray: Bless, O Lord, your servant Linda as she reads to us the holy word. May our hearts burn within us as you open to us the scriptures, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:7-15

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: <sup>8</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, because my sheep have become a prey and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, <sup>9</sup>therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: <sup>10</sup>Thus says the Lord God: I am against the shepherds, and I will hold them accountable for my sheep and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them. <sup>11</sup> For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM: 23

### The Lord's My Shepherd

1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;  
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,

in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;  
 my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650  
 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895–1984  
 Arr. © Oxford University Press.

**SECOND READING: I Peter 2:19-25**

<sup>19</sup>For 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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*All sing the Alleluia. The choir sings the verse after which all repeat the Alleluia.*

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

*Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own known me.*

**GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>10</sup> 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated at the invitation of the pastor.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Moran

*After a brief silence for reflection, as the music sounds, please stand to proclaim the Word of God in song.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

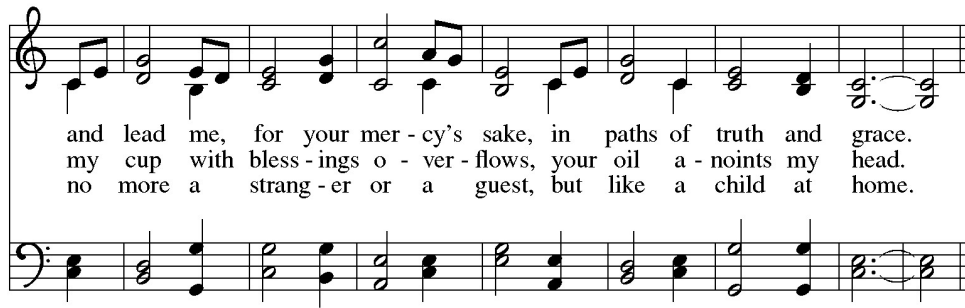
**ELW 782**

**My Shepherd, You Supply My Need**

1 My Shep-herd, you sup-ply my need; most ho-ly is your name.  
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;  
3 The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me all my days;

In pas-tures fresh you make me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.  
one word of your sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.  
oh, may your house be my a-bode and all my work be praise.

You bring my wan-d'ring spir-it back when I for-sake your ways,  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta-ble spread;  
Here would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23  
Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

## THE NICENE-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith of the Church:

**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 whom 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,  
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.**

*The congregation kneels, sits, or stands as is customary for the:*

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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.**

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith, especially Dave, John, Emily and Leo, 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.**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*All share greetings and gestures of peace with those around you. Please be seated.*

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING**



*An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church.*

## **MUSICAL OFFERING – Voluntary**

*Please rise in body or spirit as the gifts are presented.*

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has

sprung to life this mor - row.

*Refrain*

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

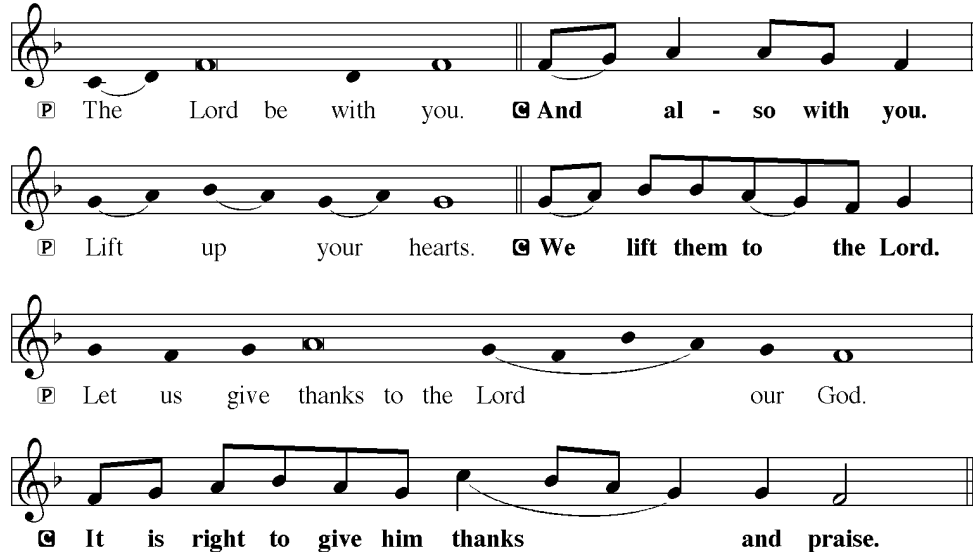
faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

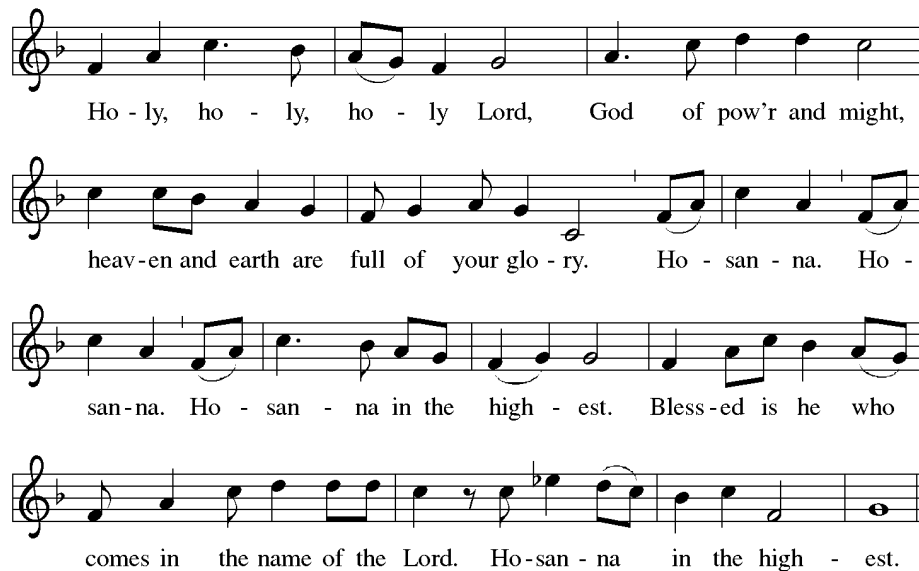
☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☑ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## THE PROPER PREFACE

### SANCTUS



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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; when the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

*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 his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Alleluia! Christ our paschal lamb has been sacrificed for us!

**Therefore, let us keep the feast! Alleluia!**

For those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

*Please be seated.*

#### THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and the Risen Christ is present whenever we feast together. **You** are welcome to the feast! Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle. Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle. Receive the bread in your open palm. All bread is gluten free. Proceeding to either communion assistant, hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill. Non-alcoholized grape juice is in the pre-filled cups. As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the bowls. All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing. If you need communion brought to you, please let a neighbor know to inform the Pastor.*

**HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION**

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

**ELW 502**

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.

# You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

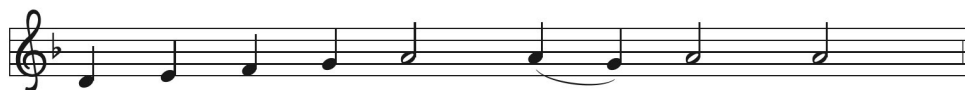
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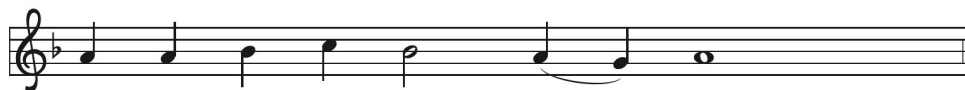
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.  
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,  
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,  
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
 stripped of might up - on the cross,  
 sit in pow - er at God's side.  
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



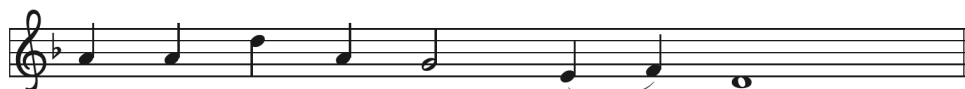
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er  
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,  
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,  
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.  
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,  
 have a love that reach - es wide.  
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.  
 you, who are both gift and cost.  
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.  
 you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993  
 Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.  
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

*Refrain*

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: 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.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING

...now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 789

### Savior, like A Shepherd Lead Us

1 Sav - ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847  
 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE – "Bradbury"**

D. Wood

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*Luther Memorial Church and Academy are located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people. These lands were ceded by the people of the Six Nations on October 22, 1784 in a treaty ratified by the United States Government in 1785 and never ratified by the people of the Six Nations. We gather in this place indebted to these peoples for their forced generosity. While some peoples were successful in resisting assimilation and genocide, and still live on dwindled homelands now, many were absorbed into other peoples, exiled, or annihilated by the United States government for their land. For those who remain and for the land on which we gather, we give thanks to the Creator and to those who have been custodians of this part of Turtle Island since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

**— SERVING TODAY —**

*PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell*

*ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer*

*ASSISTING MINISTER – Linda Swanson*

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Stan Rose*

*LECTOR – Linda Melaragno*

*USHERS – Diane & Bob Banks, Sharon Burke*

*ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke*

*VIDEO STREAMING – Beth Keller*



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, Dave, and my son, John, by Mary Mumford.

**Front altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Emily and Leo Hokaj on their birthdays and wedding anniversaries on April 22, 1935 by Ed Hokaj.

**Thank you** to Pastor Moran for leading us in worship this morning.

**Stop in** the parlor following worship this morning to visit and enjoy some refreshments, compliments of our Deborah Circle.

## Today's Events

**Bread for the World** is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Every year churches, community organizations and people of faith across the country write letters and emails to their members of Congress who have the power to impact the policies and programs that can end hunger. Last fall over 20 people here at Luther Memorial wrote letters to Rep. Mike Kelly, urging him co-sponsor legislation to make it easier for women, infants, and children to receive nutritional support. Those letters were hand-delivered to Rep. Kelly's office in Erie.

*This morning we will again be participating in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. At 9:15 and 11:30, you will have the opportunity to write your own letter to Rep. Kelly, urging him to restore, protect, and strengthen U.S. nutrition programs that help families put food on the table. Sample letters will be available, along with fact sheets, paper, pens, and some light refreshments. On May 3 during both worship services, our letters will be brought to the altar for a prayer asking God to bless our offering, that it may contribute to a world without hunger.*

Your letters matter! Leaders in Congress really do listen to their constituents. Every letter you write to your representatives on Capitol Hill is read and cataloged – and tells your representative which issues to prioritize. When enough people speak up, hunger is impossible to ignore!

In Matthew 14:16, when the disciples asked Jesus to send the hungry crowd away, he replied, “You give them something to eat.” Today, that same call comes to us. Join us on April 26 to make your voice heard. Let's double the number of letters delivered to Rep. Kelly this year!

For more information about Bread for the World, visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

**Presque Isle Ringers**, Erie's only community handbell ensemble, will be showcasing their amazing and unique instrument at Luther Memorial this evening at 7:00. You will see them pluck, mallet, thumb damp, echo and toll as they share their passion for handbells. Please join us for this wonderful concert with reception following.

**Please visit** the LMA Book Fair in the library from 9:00am – 12:00 noon today. There's always a good book waiting to be found that just right for you.

## Worship Matters!

**Ever year on this Sunday** in the Easter season, we jump back to just after the man born blind was cast out of the community for his faith in Jesus. When Jesus seeks him out, Jesus then teaches the people about himself using sheep and shepherd language. We jump back to well before Jesus enters Jerusalem. We jump back to before the last supper, the moments in the garden, the betrayal, arrest, denial, trial, and death of Jesus. We jump back past the empty tomb and even the resurrection appearances. What does it mean—on this side of Resurrection—that Jesus is our shepherd? What does it mean that Jesus is the door through which sheep come *and go*?

## Worship

**Rachel's Day** is an opportunity to lift up all of our youth who are threatened by the “Herods” of today; sex trafficking, gun violence, war, bullying, suicide. Rachel's Day and anti-violence work are not about fixing others but recognizing that children need to know that adults care. A Litany of Prayer and candle lighting service will be presided over by Bishop Kristen Papson, ELCA Bishop of the NWPA Synod. Prayer Stations will be available throughout the church building from 6:00pm- 8:00pm.

Rachel's Day is a day of remembering the young lives lost, and it should also be a time to recommit to children everywhere. It is important to celebrate as well as mourn. It is in celebrating that the faith community is stirred to hope and can envision a better future.

ALL faiths and denominations are welcome to join Women of the ELCA for this event on **Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30pm**. A light reception will be offered at the conclusion of the service.

**Luther will be hosting** the Erie Lutheran Conference congregations for the **Ascension of Our Lord** worship service on Thursday, May 14 at 7:00pm. The Rt. Rev. Kristen Papson, IV Bishop of the NWPA Synod, will be preaching. There will be a reception to follow. God has gone up with a shout! The Lord with the sound of the trumpet! Alleluia! See you there!

## Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series

**Millcreek Community Band** will offer a program at Luther Memorial on Monday, May 4 at 7:00pm. From its roots as a clown/comic parade band, the Millcreek Area Community Band has grown into an ensemble of approximately 45 members that performs a wide variety of wind ensemble, concert band and symphonic band repertoire. Please join us for what is sure to be an evening of musical entertainment.

**Join us** Saturday, May 23 as we welcome Assistant Grand Court Organist, Dylan David Shaw to Luther Memorial. Dylan is Parish Organist at Zion Lutheran Church in Bristol, PA and has served for nearly 11 years as Assistant Organist at the former Macy's Philadelphia, Wanamaker Grand Court with Peter Richard Conte. In addition to his duties at the Grand Court, Dylan is an Associate Organist at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey, home to the Largest Musical Instrument in the World. Time of the concert to be announced.

### Faith Formation

**Bible After Dark (BAD)** meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month at 6:30pm at Calamari's Squid Row (1317 State St.) for a time of conversation and fellowship. **YOU** are invited to join us on Tuesday, May 5. We will begin exploring *Belonging*, a study of the Woman at the Well by Karoline Lewis (you may have met her!). Books are available for purchase through the church office for \$15.

**Brown Bag Bible (B<sup>3</sup>)** gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. B<sup>3</sup> resumes on Thursday, April 30 with a study on the book of Revelation.

**Four workshops** for confirmation students, 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, will be offered throughout the year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (in odd months: **November 9, January 11, 2025 and March 8, May 10, 2026**) after the 10:30am worship service. In order to successfully complete confirmation classes, each confirmand must attend all four. However, the *same four* will be offered every year in slightly different orders to allow for flexibility in attending all four. There will also be a worship leadership and a biblical literacy component that will need to be completed along with the usual service hours. Finally, ConfirCamp is strongly recommended for *at least* one year between the end of 7<sup>th</sup> and beginning of 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10<sup>th</sup> grade to each confirmand.

### Opportunities for Fellowship

**Second Sunday Socials** will be held Sunday, May 10 at 9:15 in the parlor. Join us for conversation and some sweets. Please contact the church office if you would like to host this time of fellowship.

**L.I.A.**, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, May 12 from 5:30-7:00pm for planning of our upcoming service projects and some very creative ideas. All youth in grades 5-12 and their families meet the second Tuesday of each month; join us.

**Come and join** us for an escape from reality. Enjoy a relaxing morning with friends at the Magic Fingers Grace Group as you knit your cares away sprinkled with some laughter. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Our next gathering will be April 28 from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. Contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**OWLS** will welcome Master Gardner Mary Hetrick on Wednesday, May 20. Mary will share some brilliant ideas to bring patriotism into your gardening. Come and discover patriotic container gardening and be ready to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U. S. A. Lunch will be provided. Please join us May 20 at 11:00am. RSVP to Jan MacInnes, 833-0476, or the church office.

**CampBlast** will be held at Camp Lutherlyn, Butler, Pa, on Saturday, May 9 from 11:00am – 4:30pm. Rain or shine, this is a day of fun for the entire family; archery, gaga ball, zipline, crafts, hiking, hay rides, kayaking, and so much more. The entire day is free. What a wonderful way to spend your day!

### Special Showing

**Artiques Gallery**, 716 Nevada Drive, invites you to “The Carl and Wilda Show” with opening days Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3 from 12 noon – 5:00pm. Many may remember Carl and Wilda Sundberg and a large amount of their fine art will be on display at Artiques Gallery on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through May from 12 noon – 5:00pm. The Gallery, managed by Steve Wood, “will have a familiar feel, a heavy dose of Erie Art Legends and antique art”. There is no fee to stop in and enjoy the unforgettable artistic talent of Carl and Wilda.

### Luther Memorial Academy

**Come celebrate!** The Luther Memorial Academy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be Saturday, May 2 from 5:00-7:30pm. **YOU** are invited to the celebration! If you are interested in joining in this historic moment in our parish, admission is \$20 per person. You may fill out a RSVP form as found on the welcome table out the doors next to the pulpit and return to the office (church or school). You may also reach out to the school office (814.454.0106 x222). The celebration won't be the same without you! Hope to see you there!

### Items to Note

**In case of a pastoral emergency**, please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

**Greeting cards** can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

### — PRAYER LIST —

#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

##### **Our Members:**

Betsy Brumagin	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	David Leemhuis
Diane Parsons	Judy Karney	Karen Zamperini	Loretta Deeds
Donna Sedelmyer	Kate Martin	Sutton Rowland	
Mark Zamperini			

##### **Friends and Family:**

Mary Beth & Nancy, Kelly	Gail Lesuer	Linda F.	Kris
Brynlee	Brooks Davis	Sharon Swick	Peggy S.
Henderson family	Carl Larese	Shirley	Diane Come
Kevin Soles & family	Jenny	Carol McFalls	Valerie
Adam & Connie Ogle	Katja & family	Peter Maker	Caroline Daniels
Erin N.			

##### **Grief:**

Braendel family                      Joann Perry family

##### **Our Military Service Men & Women:**

Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	Justin Gajewski

**Readings and Commemorations This Week.**

**April 27** – Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:17-23; I Peter 5:1-5

**April 28** – Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:23-31; Hebrews 13:20-21

**April 29** – **Catherine of Siena, mystic, theologian and doctor of the Church, 1380** – Psalm 100; Jeremiah 23:1-8; Matthew 20:17-28 -- *This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.*

**April 30** – Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 6:8-15

**May 1** – **Philip and James, Apostles** – Isaiah 30:18-21; Psalm 44:1-3, 20-26; II Corinthians 4:1-6; John 14:8-14 -- *Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.*

**May 2** – **Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria** – Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Jeremiah 26:20-24; John 8:48-59 -- *Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise. Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.*

