

Welcome to St. Peter Lutheran Church

The 4th Sunday of Easter April 26, 2026

In-Person Worship: St Peter at 9:00 am

Facebook Live, 9:00 a.m. at "St Peter Lutheran Church"

You Tube (Live) at "St Peters Lutheran Church Rockwell, IA"

Church Office: 641-822-3101 Email: stpeter@netins.net

Lay Minister Jason Grunklee: 641-990-9328 (call or text)

Email: grunklee0@gmail.com

CALL TO WORSHIP (Please Stand)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

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!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

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 (*local waters may be named*).

Blessed are you.

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.

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.

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.

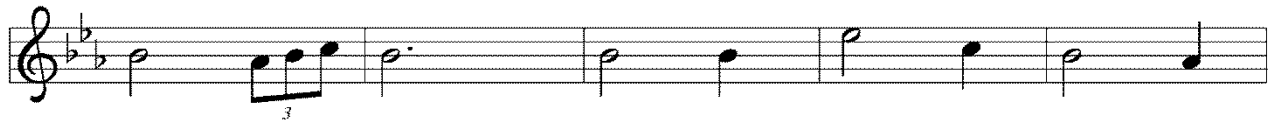
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #502 "The King of Love My Shepherd is"

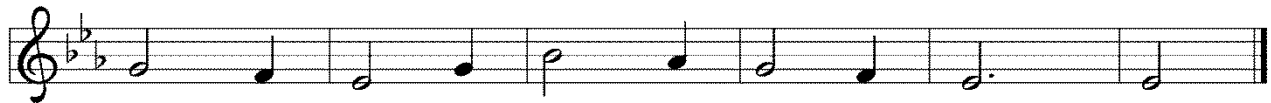
The King of Love My Shepherd Is



- 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.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Greeting (ELW p. 213)

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.

The Canticle of Praise

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

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.

(Please be seated)

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.

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

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ 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.

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

PSALM: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹ The 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.**

³ You 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.**

⁵ You 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 ^l LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

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.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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.

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

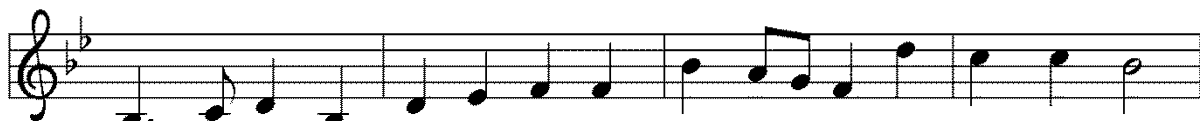
²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For 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 (Please Stand)



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 10th Chapter. **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. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

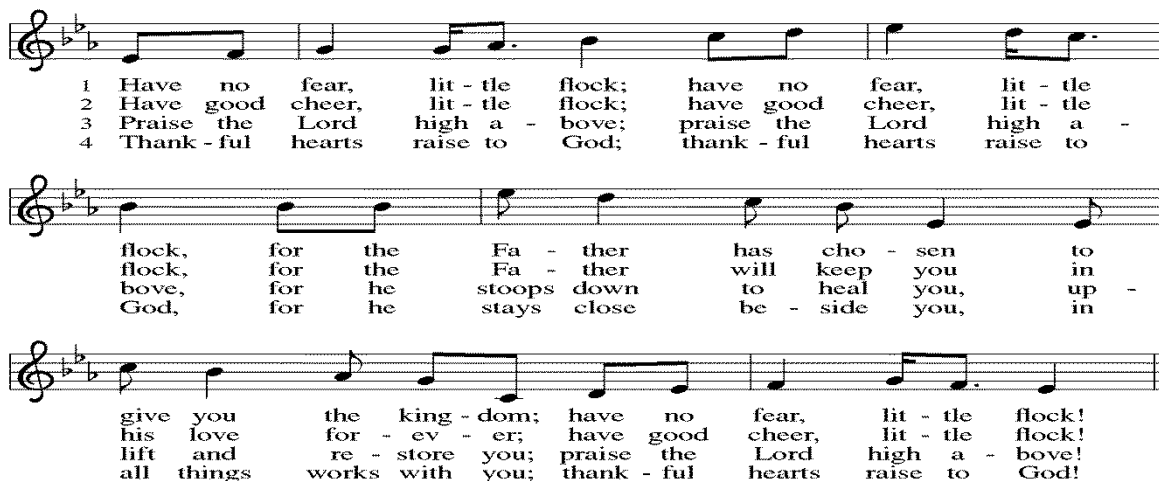
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** (Please be seated)

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW #764 “Have No Fear Little Flock”

Have No Fear, Little Flock



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to

flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in

give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930
Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

(Please Stand)

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers:

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation. (*Response to the petition.* "Merciful God, **receive our prayer**")

"Lord, Listen to" Your Children Praying" ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord send your spirit to this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

(Leader will lead you in prayer, then sing again.)

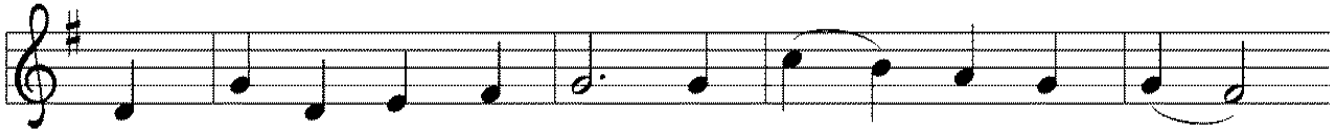
Please remember in your prayers: Jim Turner, Christine Foell, Jo Thomas, DiAnne & Dave Severin, Lorna Thompson, Wendell & Dawn Thomas, Audrey Harder, Larry Kruckenberg, Janet Hoftiezer, Joan Petersen, Lon Peterson, Wendy Jorgensen, Renee Dahlen, Diane Stearns and all who are homebound or hospitalized.

"Please turn and greet your neighbor."

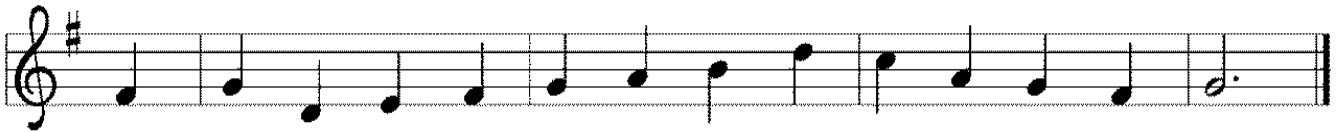
Offering

The Offertory: (Please Stand) #686 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

We Give Thee but Thine Own



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

Offering Prayer

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.

Holy Communion

Words of Institution: “In the night in which he was betrayed...”

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Communion Distribution (Please be seated)

Prayer after Communion

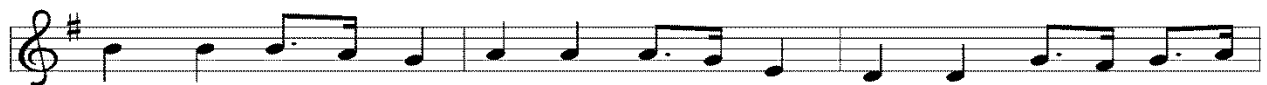
Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

Blessing

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 ELW #774 “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



1 What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,

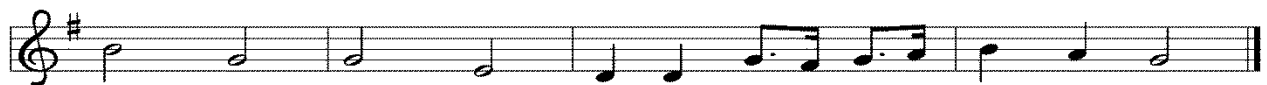


lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929
Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Church Streaming & Podcast License, size C (200-499), #CSPL071564 expiration date 6/30/2026
Church Copyright License, Size C (200-499), #11231032 expiration date 6/30/2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS

USHERS FOR MAY

GREETERS FOR MAY

Dale & Carole Matthes

COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR MAY

Val Christopherson

ACOLYTES FOR MAY

Gavin & Alivia Vaughn

Sunday School News

There will be no Sunday School on May 3, 2026, due to Confirmation

Last Day for Sunday School will be May 10, 2026

We would like to thank all the kids who attended this year and the parents/guardians who brought them each week.

Vacation Bible School will not be held at St. Peter during the summer of 2026.

Instead, we will be taking a day trip to the Grotto, with more details to come.

Lenten Mission Project Update

Over the past 10 years, the Sunday School has completed 10 Lenten Mission Projects. The funds that we have raised have been used to provide vaccines, clean water, irrigation, bought cows, pigs, chicks, and honeybees, among other things. This year we set a goal of raising \$3000, and with your individual support of generous donations, Women of Faith, and Missions agreeing to match a portion, we were able to collect **\$3,395.76**. With that money, we will be able to support a person with a semester of seminary school and 3 fish farms. We would like to thank you again for supporting another successful Lenten Mission Project.

Women of St. Peter you are invited to a bridal shower for **Brett Witte's** bride-to-be Hanna Townley this afternoon **Sunday, April 26 at 2 pm** at St. Peter parish hall.

Everyone is welcome. The couple is registered online at Walmart and Amazon.

THE WOMEN OF FAITH GROUP IS BEGINNING A PROJECT MAKING PRAYER SHAWLS. ANYONE THAT CROCHETS OR KNITS IS WELCOME TO JOIN US. WE HAVE BOOKS WITH PATTERNS TO USE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING PLEASE CONTACT LANA SCHAEFER, LOUISE PATTERSON OR BEV PETERS.

Calendar for the Week

Sunday, April 26 th	9:00 am Worship Service with Communion 10:00 am Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School & Confirmation
Tuesday, April 28 th	9:00 am Quilter's 6:30 pm Bible Study
Confirmation Sunday! Sunday, May 3 rd	9:00 am Worship Service will recognizing the Confirmation Class 10:00 am Coffee NO Sunday School & Confirmation