

*I came that they may  
have life and have it  
abundantly*

JOHN 10:10

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Radio ministry is given in thankfulness to God for family and friends by Irene Sheppard.  
And sending an early happy birthday to Irene as she will celebrate 99 years on May 6.

|                |             |  |
|----------------|-------------|--|
| Sunday 4/26    | 9:00am      | Worship & on Radio & Video   |
|                | 10:00am     | Sunday School  |
|                | 10:00am     | 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Brunch                                     |
|                | 10:30am     | Youth Board Meeting  |
|                | 11:00am     | Education Board Meeting  |
|                | 12:30pm-3pm | 4-H Meeting  |
|                | 1:30pm      | Eagle Scout Ceremony   |
| Tuesday 4/28   | 4:00pm      | AA Meeting (Fireside Rm)   |
|                | 5:00pm      | Endowment Committee Meeting  |
| Wednesday 4/29 | 8:00am      | Bible Study  |
|                | 6:30pm      | 7-9 Gr Confirmation  |
|                | 7:00pm      | Senior Choir Practice  |
| Thursday 4/30  |             | Deadline for First Lutheran's Lutheran College Scholarship Application |
| Sunday 5/03    | 9:00am      | Worship/HC w/3yo-4 <sup>th</sup> Gr singing & on Radio & Video         |
|                | 10:00am     | Contemplating Membership Class   |
|                | 10:00am     | Sunday School  |

**Acolytes:** Cash Salinas, Max Wondra

**Lector:** Deb Wurst

**Ushers:** Rick Hansen, Joel Blome, Steve Vaith, Davin Johnson, Doug Kinny

**April's Children's Offering** is a noisy offering for Youth Trips/Events.  
May's offering will be a noisy offering for Good Earth Village Camperships.

**Our mission as The Welcome Place grows deeper each day. Thank you for your prayers, participation, offerings and tithes to keep our ministry strong.**

**Sunday, April 19 – Offering \$3,682.50**  
**Attendance – 190**



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

9:00am

Mission Statement - As God's people gathering for worship, study and service, we seek to be a "Welcome Place" for all people. This we do out of love for and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

\*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.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

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.

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. Full 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

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

#123 WT

\*Apostolic Greeting

page 138

\*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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one god, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music

Make a Joyful Noise

Children's Message

WORD

First Reading:

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm:

Psalm 23

Second Reading:

1 Peter 2:19-25

\*Gospel Acclamation

Calypso Doxology

see insert

P. The Gospel according to John. C. Glory to you, O Lord.

\*Gospel Reading:

John 10:1-10

P. The Gospel of the Lord. C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Sing for Joy

#119 WT

RESPONDING

\*Apostles' Creed

page 127

\*Prayers of Intercession

(Lord, in your mercy/Hear our prayer)

\*Sharing of the Peace

\*Offering

\*Offertory Music

This Little Light of Mine

#145 WT

\*Offertory Prayer

\*Lord's Prayer

page 145

SENDING

\*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 Song

Thy Word

#136 WT

\*Dismissal

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

Postlude

CCLI #853768 and #20174979

One License: #A-731987

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

434 First Street SW Blooming Prairie, Minnesota 507.583.6621

firstlutheranbp.com facebook.com/firstlutheranbp

Senior Pastor

Heidi Heimgartner

Associate Pastor

Laurel Meester

Director of Children's Ministry

Tracy Madsen

Administrative Secretary

Danielle Hein

The Worship Team

Melissa Stoen, Tom Blome, Dustin Kremer, Dennis Sauke,

Jaclyn Schlichter, Allyson Skillestad, Isaac Stoen & Pastor Laurel

Custodians

Gary Thorson, Wanda Edge



# 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.

## Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

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."

TODAY'S READINGS April 26, 2026

Volume 57, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1553. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year A.

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

**Gathering Hymn**      **Come, Now is the Time to Worship**      **#123 WT**

**Chorus:** Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are, to worship.

Come, just as you are, before your God. Come

1 One day every tongue will confess You are God. One day every knee will bow. Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now.

*(Chorus)*

2 Willingly our knees will bow. With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength we gladly choose you now. *(Chorus)*

**Gospel Acclamation**      **Calypso Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all people, let it show.

Praise God above, let all heaven sing it, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit.

Well, Amen, Amen, Amen, Oh Amen. Yes, Amen, Amen, Creator, Son

and Holy Spirit.      *(Repeat)*

**Hymn of the Day**      **Sing for Joy**      **#119 WT**

1 If we call to Him, He will answer us; if we run to Him, He will run to us; if we lift our hands, He will lift us up; Come now, praise His name, all you saints of God.

**Chorus:** O sing for joy to God, our strength;  
O sing for joy to God, our strength, our strength.

2 Draw near to Him, He is here with us; give Him your love, He's in love with us; He will heal our hearts, He will cleanse our hands; if we rend our hearts, He will heal our land.      *(Chorus)*

**Offering**      **This Little Light of Mine**      **#145 WT**

1 This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. 3x  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. 3x.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine. 3x  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

**Sending Song**      **Thy Word**      **#136 WT**

**Chorus:** Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

1 When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're right there beside me. Nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.

*(Chorus)*

2 I will not forget your love for me, and yet my heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side; I will love you to the end.

*(Chorus)*

## Contemplating Membership?

Considering a membership transfer from another faith community to First Lutheran?

Enrolled in church programming?

Returning after a time away?

Been around awhile, and desiring to make your affiliation more formal?

First Lutheran warmly welcomes you to consider YOUR part in our mission of worship, study and service!

**Pastoral Conversation**  
**May 3 @10am**  
**Fellowship Room**

For newcomers AND those returning to active participation in faith

TO REGISTER: [firstluthoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:firstluthoffice@yahoo.com) | 507.583.6621



**Welcome Milestone Sunday is May 17, 2026**  
**9am Recognition | 10am Reception & Orientation**