



April 26, 2026 The 4th Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Gathering

Jesus is called the “gate” for 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.

*Our worship order is contained in this booklet. The people’s parts are indicated by **bold** type. The red hardback hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is our main worship resource for hymns and song. You can find hymns in the second half of the book and are numbered at the top of each hymn. Occasionally, worship may veer from the printed bulletin – just follow the Spirit!*

A warm welcome whether you are joining us in-house or by social media. Our prayer is that worship today will be a blessing as we sing and pray and hear God’s Word together. We welcome you to the Lord’s Table this morning. Christ Church is a family of faith deeply rooted in our upper Bucks communities, supporting one another in faith, working together to serve God.

Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency, please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129.

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE: time for prayer and preparation.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

We are gathered in the name of the Father, + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

In baptism, by water and the Word, God liberates us from sin and death,
joining us to the resurrection life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God’s Easter promise be renewed in us
as we make confession, proclaim our faith and renew our baptismal covenant.

-Silence -

Gracious God: **you raised your Son to free us from bondage to sin and death. We confess that we too often have chosen to remain captive to sin, doubt and fear. Father, forgive us for Jesus’ sake, and enable us by His resurrection power to live in holy freedom, no longer for ourselves but for Him. Amen.**

We have confessed our sin.

In Easter hope do you reject the devil and all his empty promises,
renouncing the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I do, by the grace of God, and the power of the resurrection.

Walking with God’s people, will you seek His ways,
showing His saving grace by faith-filled word and action?

We will, by the grace of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, hear the good news: God raised Jesus from the dead so that we might have forgiveness of our sins, and live in faith and hope. By the precious blood of Christ, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven! Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and praise our Father in heaven. **Blessed be God, forever! Alleluia! Amen!**

WE SING THE GATHERING HYMN: ELW 502, THE KING OF LOVE



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; 6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thine unction grace bestoweth; thy goodness faileth never.
 and, oh, what transport of delight Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 from thy pure chalice floweth! within thy house forever.

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

GREETING

The grace of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

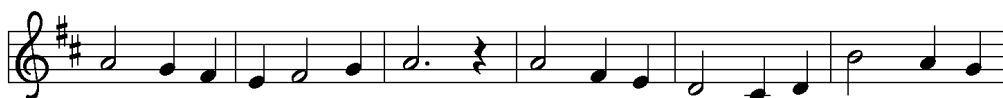
THE HYMN OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE FEAST



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



All
 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *Silence-* 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.**

Word

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON is from the Acts of the Apostles, the 2nd chapter. (Acts 2:42-47)

⁴²[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 by 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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silence for Reflection

PSALM 23 is read responsively.

¹The 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.**

³You 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.**

⁵You 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 LORD forever. Amen.**

Silence for Reflection

THE SECOND LESSON is from 1 Peter, the second chapter. (1 Peter 2:19-25)

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure 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 right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. 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, free from 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 The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON SONG: #364, vs 1 *before the Gospel*

**Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,
even from death, dispelling its gloom.**

Refrain:

*Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!*

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to John, the 10th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!** (John 10:1-10)

[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. 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." The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

RESPONSE:

**"Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.
He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done.
Even the battle with sin is won." Refrain**

*Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!*

Please be seated.

TEACHING THE WORD / SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #764, 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.

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We confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again 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.**

Please stand at pastor's invitation.

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

*We join our hearts in prayer for one another, those in need, and all of God's creation. Each petition concludes:
'...in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**'*

The prayers conclude:

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

Meal

THE PEACE

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

We greet one another in peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words. Please feel free to step out of your pew. We greet one another with a handshake, a wave or even a touchless greeting such as a little bow or a hand placed over your heart.

COLLECTION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. In-House the offering is collected. In house or joining us online, tithes and offerings may be gathered and given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code.



THE OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. *silence* Living God,

You gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together

in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table.

Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body,

that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and risen Lord. Amen.

We join our hearts in silent prayer as the Table is prepared.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

It is our right, our duty, and our great joy to thank and praise You, O God
for the glorious resurrection of our Lord.

By his death he has destroyed death,

and by his rising has brought us to new and eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter,

with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending song:

**Holy are you, Lord! Holy are you, God of power and might!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!**

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of our God! **Hosanna in the highest!**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, O God, the wellspring of all holiness.

We praise you for the gift of creation, the work of your hands,
so wondrously formed in holiness and beauty.

When humanity turned away in sin you restored us
by the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

That in forgiveness and joy we might thrive, giving thanks and remembering:

That on the night 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 and 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.

In obedience and thanksgiving, we remember the great and mighty acts of God, and proclaim the mystery and
promise of our faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Proclaiming all glory and honor is yours through the Holy Spirit, O God,
we offer our prayer in the name of Christ, who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

THE AGNUS DEI: JUST AS I AM, #592

**Just as I am, without one plea / but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee / O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thy love unknown / hath broken every barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea thine alone / O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

We believe Jesus Christ is truly present in the forms of bread and wine. You are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please commune at any time after the invitation. The elements are offered with the words: "The Body of Christ given for you" and "The Blood of Christ shed for you". The recipient may respond "Amen".

*Those online are communed, then the musicians. The congregation follows on the organ side, then the pulpit side. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Host from Pastor. Then move towards the side aisle to receive the Wine by intinction, dipping the Host into cup, and returning to the pew by the side aisle.
The hymn during communion is #481, Come to the Table.*



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

*Following communion there is time for prayer and reflection as the altar is cleared and the chalice vested.
Following communion and the hymn, please stand at Pastor's invitation.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Eternal God, living Savior,

All of creation sings for joy at the risen life of Jesus. Fill our hearts with your power and peace, and send us forth renewed and rejoicing to be a blessing to the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, we pray. Amen!

Sending

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace. **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN ELW #789, SAVIOR LIKE A SHEPHERD (ON NEXT PAGE)



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

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace, and tell the news that Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

THE POSTLUDE

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

353 E. Dark Hollow Rd + Pipersville PA 18947
 215. 766. 8730

The Rev. Marie L. Caron, pastor
the people of Christ Church, ministers

Mrs. Cindy Carper, Secretary
 Mrs. Kim Campbell, Council President

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

The ordo is the traditional liturgy of Holy Communion.

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP can be seen on Facebook Live and Zoom. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to our website (www.christpipersville.org).

THE APRIL WEB SITE is sponsored by the Campbell Family in honor of all our loved ones.

THE APRIL BULLETINS are sponsored by the Szymanowski Family in honor and thanksgiving for all Christ Lutheran Church members.

LECTOR:

FELLOWSHIP: Delana Woodward

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember Sue (H,P,St), Ginny Weaver (H,R), Debbie Ann (H,R), Bunnie S (P), Carol Mulhatten (H,R), Rick Hadland (H,R) and the family and friends of Carol Cook and David B (esp. wife Marsha) as they mourn their deaths. Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

BLESSINGS BY THE BOX – We will once again be helping 7 local Tinicum Elementary families facing food insecurity over the summer months by supplying them with Giant gift cards. We will be collecting donations through May 24th and gift cards will be distributed at the end of the school year in early June. We will also be assembling snack bags for 19 children and there's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for requested items. Snack bag items, cash or gift cards for them should be dropped off by May 3rd. Last year's families were most appreciative of this assistance. If you would like to help, please place your donations in an envelope and note that it's for Blessings by the Box.

BULLETIN/WEB SITE SPONSORS: You may sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. Sponsorship envelopes and a sign-up sheet are posted on the bulletin board for your convenience.

DID YOU KNOW...Many Thrivent policy holders are eligible to designate "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to a charity of their choice. Christ Lutheran Church is one of those options. We received \$1,337.00 through this program in 2025 and \$710.00 to date in 2026.

GIANT GIFT CARDS can be purchased after worship (see Cindy Carper or Kim Szymanowski) or during the week from the church office. Gift cards are available in \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 & \$100 denominations. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. (*Gift cards may not be used to purchase other gift cards.*) Giant gives 5% back to the church for every card purchased. We raised \$2,600 in 2025 and \$1,000 to date in 2026.

The Week of April 26th at a Glance

- Sun. 04/26 The 4th Sunday of Easter
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Fellowship Period
1:15 PM UB Conference at The Iron Pigs
Happy Anniversary, Jeff and Beth Swope!
- Tues. 04/28 Happy Anniversary, Pastor Caron & Michael Clement!
- Wed. 04/29 11:00AM Ensemble Rehearsal
- Thur. 04/30 8:30AM Morning Prayer, 9:00AM Bible Study
- Fri. 05/01 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
- Sun. 05/03 The 5th Sunday of Easter
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship, Sunday School
10:30AM Fellowship Period
Happy Birthday, Genya Hopf!