

SUNDAY APRIL 26TH, 2026 -9:00 AM

Fourth Sunday of Easter

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB

A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love with all people

WELCOMING WORD

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.



WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!

Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome you.

MINISTERS
INTERIM PASTOR

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
KAREN HOFSTAD



ORDER OF WORSHIP

(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = Congregation)

PRELUDE Diane Dangerfield

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #634 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (vs.1,5,6)*

SUNDAY SCHOOL *Joy-oy-oy to the Lord
Jesus, Gentle Shepherd*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

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 (*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.**

GREETING

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.

+KYRIE pg. 147

HYMN OF PRAISE p 148 *Glory to God in the Highest....*

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.

CONGREGATIONAL SONGS *Rock of Ages*
All the People Said Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ezekiel 34:7-15

⁷ Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸ 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, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.

1 Peter 2:19-25

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.

ACCLAMATION pg. 151

(sing) *Alleluia...*

+L: The Gospel according to John, Chapter 10

+C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

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. 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.”

+L: The Gospel of the Lord.

+C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM *Give Me Jesus*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Karen Hofstad

MESSAGE Pastor Karen Hofstad

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #789 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (vs. 1,2,4)*

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

+THE PRAYERS pg. 152

The leader concludes each petition with the words: “Lord in your mercy...”

The people respond: Hear our prayer.”

+SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING PRAISE TEAM *The Way*

+OFFERTORY #184 *Let the Vineyards...*

+OFFERING PRAYER

L: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

+THE LORD'S PRAYER pg. 154 (right hand column)

COMMUNITY WORD

+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.**

+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #774 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

+DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

**"I am God's child, deserving of love and respect,
and God will use me to change the world."**

*If you would like more information about ELC of Mount Horeb
please fill out the visitor cards in the pew pads
which are passed during offering*

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2026

SHARE: What are your highs/lows for today?

READ: Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

Monday, John 14:8-14, Show Us the Father

Tuesday, Hebrews 13:20-21, A Benediction

Wednesday, Jeremiah 23:1-8, Restoration after Exile

Thursday, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, Prayer and Praise

Friday, Exodus 3:1-12, Moses and the Burning Bush

Saturday, Jeremiah 26:20-24, Jeremiah's Prophecies

TALK: Consider some of these ideas:

**“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”
– John 10:10**

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.

- How do you figure out whom to believe, whom to follow? (John 10:1-10)
- If you could cultivate any one faith practice in your congregation, what would it be? (Acts 2:42-47)
- What injustice stirs you so much that you would sacrifice just about anything to create change? (1 Pet 2:19-25)

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.

BLESS: The God of all, who raised Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. Amen.