

St. James Anglican Church

"Good Shepherd Sunday"

The Fourth Sunday of Easter – Sunday April 26th, 2026

Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

Celebrate: Rev. Carol Hardie

Homilist: The Ven. John Anderson

Mr. Jeff Campbell, Director of Music

Organ Prelude

Processional Hymn #520 (CP) "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Dominus Regit Me

Welcome

The Gathering of the Community

Easter people, we gather to worship and to listen, to learn the sound, the feel, the cadence of the Shepherd's voice.

We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

We gather to worship and to discern, to learn how to recognize our Shepherd's voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

We gather to worship and to find shelter, to learn to trust our Shepherd's voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice. Amen. *Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock,*

Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your Holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria # 702 (CP)

Gathering Prayer

O God, whose Son is the good shepherd, send us out as shepherds to seek the lost, to heal the injured and to nurture all with grace and compassion; through Jesus, who calls each by name. **Amen.** A Prayer Book for Australia (1995) alt.

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading of Ezekiel 34: 7-16

Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: 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; therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: Thus says the Lord GOD, I am against the shepherds; and I will demand my sheep at their hand, 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. For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek 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. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will 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. 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #519 (CP)

“The Lord's My Shepherd”

Crimond

Second Reading of 1 Peter 2: 19-25

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. 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. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. '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. He 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. For you were going astray like

sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Before the Gospel #432 (CP) "Jesus Calls Us"

St Oswald

Verses 1 & 2

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

'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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (*John 10: 1-10*)

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel 432 (CP) "Jesus Calls Us" *St Oswald*
Verses 4 & 5

Sermon: The Ven. John Anderson

Anthem "The Lord's My Shepherd" *arr. Jill Gallino*
The St. James Choir

Affirmation of Faith Apostle's Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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. 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.

Prayers of the People *Mae Cox, Lay Reader*

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

Offertory Hymn # 85 (CP) "Shepherd of Souls"

St. Agnes

Creation Care Eucharist

Prayer before Communion

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, so that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen. Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

Eucharistic Prayer

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you, Creator of all. We praise you where streams and wetlands flow into Lake Couchiching and Simcoe, lakes that beat like a heart.

Where city and farm, wilderness and industry are side by side. We praise you at a time when the body of the earth is broken again and again. We give you thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands.

They knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke of cedars and listened to creation.

Together with angels and ancestors, hills and streams, deer and heron, maple and cedar, we join our voices with all of creation as we sing:

#732 (CP)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you for our shepherd, Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of farmers and seeds, labour and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying; Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

Again, after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks, and gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and cup.

Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community.

Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation.

Bring us with all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar which is both now and yet to come. All honour and glory are yours, Creator, Christ and Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection.

Invitation to the Table

So, come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God

#747 (CP) "Jesus, Lamb of God

Schubert/Proulx

The Communion

All are welcome to receive communion. If you do not wish communion but a blessing, please cross your arms and the priest will bless you. In the Anglican tradition wine is administered from a chalice or common cup. If you do not wish to receive from the chalice you can cross your arms, and the words of institution will be said. We do not practice intinction or dipping the bread in the cup.

Music During Communion

Hymn #70 (CP) "Jesus the Joy of Loving Hearts"

Maryton

Hymn #619 (CP) "Fairest Lord Jesus"

Crusaders' Hymn

Prayer after Communion

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, so that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

Glory to God,

whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Announcements

Recessional Hymn #378 (CP) "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Diademata

Dismissal

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves! And go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Sung Benediction

“Lift High the Cross”

Crucifer

Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name! Come, Christian people, sing your praises, shout! If we are silent, even stones cry out. Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name!

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