

**Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**Building up God's people through His word for His world**

**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**April 19, 2026**

*Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.*

**We especially welcome our guests who are worshipping here today.** What a privilege to greet you! If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to participate in the life and ministry of Good Shepherd. For information about our congregation, visit [gslcva.org](http://gslcva.org). Also, please fill out a Welcome card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the offering plate.

**Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church.** Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Our informal worship service features contemporary music and is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion celebrated on fourth Sundays.

**To all worshippers:** The presence of children in worship is a gift to the Body of Christ and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Please welcome our young ones and give their parents a smile of encouragement or a helping hand, if needed.

**To the parents of young ones, here are a few suggestions for worshipping with your children:** Relax! God put the wiggles and giggles in kids; don't feel that you have to suppress them in His house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front, where it is easier to see and hear what's going on. Quietly explain the parts of the worship service and actions of the pastor, ushers, communion assistants, etc. Sing the hymns and songs, pray, and voice the responses aloud. Children learn worshipful behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the worship service with your child or stand up and walk around the back of the sanctuary, feel free to do so, but please come back! And finally, if you so choose, . . .

**You are welcome to use our nursery,** as well as our parents' room next to the nursery, if your young ones need a break from the service. The Parents' Room is also a comfortable place where mothers may nurse their babies. The worship service is livestreamed to a monitor in the Parents' Room.

**We offer Sunday School** and a variety of Bible studies and spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings. All Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 a.m. See News and Announcements for class information.

**Need hearing assistance?** Ask an usher for a headset, which has a direct feed from our sound system.

**Flowers and plants in our worship areas** are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the church, uplift service participants, and remind us of God's good creation. Find information about being a flower sponsor on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and at [gslcva.org/giving](http://gslcva.org/giving) (look for the sponsorship form at the bottom of that page). Today's flowers are sponsored by Andrew and Kathy Otterbacher in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

**Prelude** "Christ Is Alive" Jason D. Payne

**Welcome** Pastor James

*Please stand*

**Opening Hymn** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" **Hymn No. 469**

**Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness**

*The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's word and for self-examination. You may kneel or remain standing.*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

*Please stand*

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Kyrie ~ Lord, have mercy** **Music in hymnal, pages 152-53**

**Hymn of Praise** "This Is the Feast" **Music in hymnal, page 155**

**Salutation and Prayer of the Day** **Music in hymnal, page 156**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Please sit*

## First Reading

## Acts 2:14a, 36-41

*Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

- R: <sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:  
<sup>36</sup> "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."  
<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."  
<sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.
- R: This is the Word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

## 1 Peter 1:17-23

*The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.*

- R: <sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.  
<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.
- R: This is the Word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**Alleluia**

**Music in hymnal, page 156**

**Holy Gospel**

**Luke 24:13-35**

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Music in hymnal, page 157**

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

P: <sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Music in hymnal, page 157**

*Please sit*

**Hymn of the Day**      “Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow”

**Hymn No. 476**

*If you think your child might be unable to sit through the entire service, this would be an appropriate time to take him/her to the nursery.*

**Message**      “The Eye-Opening Christ”

Pastor James

### **Musical Reflection**

*Please stand*

### **Nicene Creed**

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

**Through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

*Please sit*

### **Announcements**

Communications Director Jeff Donahue

*Please fill out a Welcome card and place it in the offering plate.*

**Anthem (8:00)**

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

arr. John Cornish

*Sarah Damers, soprano*

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing'  
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore thee;  
May I still thy goodness prove.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer:  
"Hither by thy help I've come";  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter  
Bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
Seal it for thy courts above.

Come, thou Fount. Take my heart,  
Seal it for thy courts above.

**Anthem (11:00)**

"The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune"

arr. R. Vaughan Williams

*Sanctuary Choir**The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the final verse.*

All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,  
Come ye before him, and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,  
Without our aid he did us make;  
We are his folk, he doth us feed,  
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,  
Approach with joy his courts unto;

Praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good;  
His mercy is forever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.

*Congregation and choir:*

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
The God whom heaven and earth adore,  
From men and from the angel host  
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

*Please stand***Offertory Prayer**

**C: 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.**

**Prayer of the Church***At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, "Merciful God..."**The congregation responds, "receive our prayer."**Please see the News and Announcements sheet for a listing of intercessions.*

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

**Preface and Proper Preface**

**Music in hymnal, page 160**

**Sanctus** ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

**Music in hymnal, page 161**

**Lord's Prayer**

**C: 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 Words of Our Lord**

**Pax Domini** ~ *The peace of the Lord*

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**Agnus Dei** ~ *Lamb of God*

**Music in hymnal, page 163**

*Please sit*

**Distribution**

**We believe** that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, according to His Word: "This is My Body . . . this is My blood" (Matthew 26:26-27), and that in this sacrament our Lord gives us forgiveness of our sins, unity with God, and strength for a life of service.

**We invite** all baptized Christians who have made their First Communion, examined themselves, discern the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us at His Table.

**Distribution procedure:** Please come forward by the center aisle or as instructed by the usher. Fill the rail, beginning at the end near the wall. Kneel. Cup your hands to receive the bread. Then, take an individual cup from the tray as it is passed. **Cups in the innermost circle of the communion tray contain juice** for those who do not wish to drink wine. **For those who need gluten-free wafers:** Bring with you one of the brightly colored pieces of paper from the pews and hand it to the communion assistant who is distributing the wafers. That person will bring a gluten-free wafer to you.

**Return to your seat via the aisle next to the windows.** Place your empty communion cup in the bowl near the end of the rail. If you are unable to walk to the communion rail, please speak to an usher, and we will bring the sacrament to you.

**Distribution Hymns** “Stay with Us”  
“Lord, ’Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee”

**Hymn No. 879**  
**Hymn No. 573**

*Please stand*

**Prayer after Communion**

**P:** 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,

**C:** **Amen.**

**Blessing**

**P:** 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.

**C:** **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”

**Hymn No. 475**

**Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. Praise the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** “Jesus Shall Reign”

arr. Marianne Kim

*During the postlude, please take a moment to get up and greet guests and worshippers at this service who are new to you. You are also welcome to stay seated for a time of prayer and reflection.*

+ + +

***Please join us for coffee and conversation following the service.***

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We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' messages, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, [jeff@gslcva.org](mailto:jeff@gslcva.org)

### Serving Today

	8:00	11:00
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Pastor James	Pastor James
<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor James	Pastor James
<b>Crucifer</b>	*	*
<b>Acolyte</b>	*	*
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Kirsten Bates	Jerry Johnson
<b>Prayer Leader</b>	Georgia Thorstenson	*
<b>Cantor</b>	Sarah Damers	Sarah Damers
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Pastor James (host) Gary Budzier (host) Reginia Benjamin (tray) Malinda DeWan (tray)	Pastor James (host) Nancy McGarry (host) Jeff Peterson (tray) John Purtilo (tray)
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Camin (lead) Ric Nickerson Jamie Ellor *	Dan Pelletier (lead) Goodwyn Morgan Paul Devine Jeannie Johns
<b>Choir Director</b>		Anne Lee
<b>Organist</b>	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
<b>Altar Care</b>	Rhoda Camin	Joey Tempel
<b>Projectionist</b>	Jeff Donahue	Jeff Donahue
<b>Audio Engineer</b>	Matt Hardy	Adam Sherman
<b>Livestream Manager</b>		Matt Hardy
<b>Greeter</b>	Deanine Thrash (door) Heidi Cooper (welcome center)	*(door) Carolyn Linke (welcome center)
<b>Guest Welcome</b>	*	*
<b>Engagement</b>	Heidi Cooper	Heidi Cooper
<b>Opener</b>	Jim Smith	
<b>Closer</b>		Martin Farley
<b>Coffee Setup</b>	Wenda Smith	
<b>Kitchen Cleanup</b>		Jan Morgan

\* = unfilled as of April 15

## **Board of Servant Leaders**

Rob Fekete, chair  
Tony Esse, vice-chair  
John Purtilo, secretary

Larry Austin  
Drew Lipman  
Jennifer Pelletier  
Bernie Schoch

## **Core Ministry Areas**

### **Worship**

*Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann*  
The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

### **Discipleship**

*Team Leader: Pastor James*  
The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

### **Parish Life**

*Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper*  
The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

### **Mission**

*Team Leader: Pastor Johann*  
Through this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Randy and Melanie Stockman); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

### **Congregational Care and Nurture**

*Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann*  
The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

### **Administration**

*Team Leader: Pastor Johann*  
This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Franker), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

### **Good Shepherd's Staff**

**Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor**

Room 201; pastorjo@gslcva.org; 703-439-2754

**Gary James, Assisting Pastor**

Room 209; pastorgary@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

**Sarah Brazell, Preschool Director**

Room 101; preschool@gslcva.org; 703-437-4511

**Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager**

Room 212; georgia@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x803

**Jeff Donahue, Communications Director**

Room 209; jeff@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x811

**Heidi Cooper, Director of Engagement**

heidi@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

**Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs**

Room 215; anne@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x807

**Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant**

Room 210; michele@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x806

**Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director**

Room 208; holly@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x213

**Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist**

matt@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

**Michelle Tenhaeff, Children's Ministry Coordinator**

childministry@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

**Julie Schorfheide, Communications Assistant**

julie@gslcva.org

**Reid Otterbacher, Communications Assistant**

commassist@gslcva.org

**Chloe Vanderhoof, Social Media Assistant**

chloe@gslcva.org

*Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.*

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District  
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod