

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Divine Service, Setting Four

Word of Welcome

Prelude: Lead on O King Eternal (–arr. James Curnow)

Carl Reque

Hymn #809: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

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

C: **Amen.**

Exhortation

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

A moment of silent reflection

Absolution

[John 20:19-23]

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.**

Introit

Psalms 66:3, 5, 8-9; antiphon: vv. 1-2

L: Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Alleluia.

C: **Sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise! Alleluia.**

L: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!

C: **So great is Your power that Your enemies come cringing to You."**

L: Come and see what God has done:

C: **He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.**

L: Bless our God, O peoples;

C: **let the sound of His praise be heard,**

L: who has kept our soul among the living

C: **and has not let our feet slip.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

L: Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Alleluia.

C: **Sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise! Alleluia.**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis (sung)

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

**To God on high be glory; And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven; Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—**

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament: Lamentations 3:22-33 (ESV)

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is Your faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in Him."

The LORD is good to those who wait for Him,
to the soul who seeks Him.

It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

It is good for a man that he bear
the yoke in his youth.

Let him sit alone in silence
when it is laid on him;

let him put his mouth in the dust—
there may yet be hope;

let him give his cheek to the one who strikes,
and let him be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not
cast off forever,

but, though He cause grief, He will have compassion
according to the abundance of His steadfast love;
for He does not willingly afflict
or grieve the children of men.

L: This is the Word of the LORD.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:11-20 (ESV)

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by Him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: John 16:16-22 (ESV)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] "A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me." So some of His disciples said to one another, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" So they were saying, "What does He mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what He is talking about." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask Him, so He said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see Me, and again a little while and you will see Me'? Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed

Hymn #466: Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Sermon

10:45—Children ages 4-12 are invited to the Fellowship Hall for an age-appropriate message

Offertory (sung)

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Musical Offering: Peace Like a River (—arr. James Curnow)

Carl Reque

Offering from God's People

Stewardship Prayer

Heavenly Father, through the resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ You have given us the promise of eternal life! Fill our hearts and minds with the knowledge of our true wealth and security, so that we would not cling to worldly riches that pass away but share them generously to serve our neighbor and spread Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: **hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer (8:00)

(8:00) The service will conclude with the Benediction.

(10:45) The service continues with the Service of the Sacrament.

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God. C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
P: It is truly good, right, and salutary. . .
. . . we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (sung)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

**Holy, holy, holy LORD God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Pax Domini

John 20:19

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

Agnus Dei (sung)

John 1:29

1. **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**
2. **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Communion Song: Softly and Tenderly (–arr. Timothy Johnson)

Carl Reque

Distribution Hymns

- 1. #633: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
- 2. #636: Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
- 3. #818: In Thee Is Gladness

Nunc Dimittis (*stand to sing*)

Luke 2:29-32

**O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

Dismissal & Post-Communion Prayer

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

P: Let us bless the LORD.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #477: Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

Postlude: Down by the Riverside (–arr. Stephen Bulla)

Carl Reque

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Priem | Reader: Darren Hall | Musician: Teresa Henny