

**St. Olaf Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, April 26, 2026**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

*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.*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Special Speaker**

**Martina Nerhus**

**\* 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.

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.**

**\*Hymn**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**ELW 807**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**\*Kyrie**

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**\*Glory to God**

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**\*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.**

*Please be seated.*

**First Reading: Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day 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, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my | soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

**\*Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)**

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**\*Gospel: Matthew John 10:1-10**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “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. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the

gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P: The gospel of our Lord

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

**Children’s Sermon**

**Katie Bills**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Jim McColley**

**\*Hymn**

*Have No Fear, Little Flock*

**ELW 764**

*Please be seated*

**Holy Baptism**

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**Baptism: Palmer Ann Larson**

*Parents: Zach and Ashley Larson*

*Godparents: Nick and Mackenzie Oester, AJ and Keely Larson*

**Baptism: Laynie Ann Larson**

*Parents: AJ and Keelie Larson*

*Godparents: Zach and Ashley Larson*

**\* Prayers of Intercession**

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

**\*Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

**Offering:** *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

**\*Offering prayer**

Merciful God,  
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
Nourish us,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus,  
**Amen.**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

**\*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.**

**\*Hymn**

*Savior, Like a Sheperd Lead Us*

**ELW 789**

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Assisting in Worship**

Presider: Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

Assisting: Pastor Jim McColley

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Nancy Hamilton

Ushers: Craig Hamilton, Viv Nore, Karla Berg, Terry Hansen

Tech: Mark Oester