

Fourth Sunday of Easter
26 April 2026

Presentation of the Offering

Our risen and everliving Shepherd Jesus Christ, You loved us so much that You have Your life to pay for our sins and so redeem us. Help us, Your lambs and sheep, to present our bodies as living sacrifices: holy, acceptable unto You, which is our reasonable service. As part of our sacrificial lives, inspire us to joyfully bring bountiful offerings to Your altar by filling us with a deep love for You and a heartfelt devotion to the growth of Your Gospel kingdom. Hear us, and help us always dear Savior. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Prayer of the Church — Ektene Form

For steadfast faith to hear the voice of our great Shepherd, that passing through the valley of the shadow of death we may receive our portion in His abundant life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all pastors, that God would bestow Christ's wisdom and tenderness upon those called to shepherd the souls of His people, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all believers, that they would receive their pastors as gifts from the Lord, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For readiness to intercede for one another since we have been gathered together in the fellowship of Christ and His apostolic Word; and for the speaking of the Gospel, that God would be pleased to add to our number those who are being saved, until He brings us all rest eternally in His safekeeping, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all Christian homes, that by good deeds the ignorance of foolish people may be put to silence before God's divine institution; for all married couples, that God would preserve them in love and faithfulness; for all parents, that God would strengthen them as teachers of the faith; and for the unmarried, that God would uphold them honorable and unashamed in their station, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who would govern the people of the Church, that they would be held accountable and honor the purpose of the Good Shepherd as they protect His people and serve the cause of justice and liberty, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Linda, Ellen, Ann, Ralph, Marty, Paula, Cindy, Joyce, John, Betty, Chad, Marcia, Jessica, Rosalie, Linda, Jodi, Mary Jayne, Joline, Aaron, Justin, Drew, David, Jeff, Lyall, Carolyn, Carolyn, Denise, and Marilyn, that God would work by His mercy for their good now and eternally, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Aaron Raschke, that our heavenly Father would bless him in body and soul with all things needful for this life and eternity, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Holy Spirit in rich measure, that hearing and following Christ, our Shepherd, we would lead lives well-pleasing to our Father in heaven and finally pass through every tribulation to our eternal heavenly home, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.