

# Grace Episcopal Church

April 26, 2026

*The Fourth Sunday of Easter*

## Grace's Mission

We are disciples of Jesus, helping one another be the hands and feet of Christ  
by sharing God's love with the world.

Opening Hymn

*At the Lamb's high feast we sing*

Blue Hymnal #174

Penitential Order Holy Eucharist Rite Two

Red Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p351

Gloria

Front of Praise Book S-280

The Collect

BCP p 211

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

BCP 357

A Reading from the Book of Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 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, 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.

Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people. Thanks be to God.

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD

Psalm 23 Marty Haugen

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in-to life.\_\_\_\_\_

God is my shepherd, so nothing I shall want, I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. (To refrain)

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
My spirit shall sing the music of your Name. (To refrain)

Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. (To refrain)

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,  
crowning me with love beyond my power to hold. (To refrain)

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. (To refrain)

### A reading from **1 Peter 2:19-25**

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is 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 God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn**

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us*

**Blue Hymnal #7908**

**The Holy Gospel according to John 10:1-10**

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “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.”

The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

**Fr. J. Jeffrey Baker**

**The Nicene Creed****BCP p 358****Prayers of the People****Form III****BCP p 387**

**A Prayer for Change:** Lord, give us the courage to view the future with hope and expectancy and, most of all, with faith. In the face of change, help us set aside our fears, and urge us to seek and see your hand at work, while opening our hearts to recognize that change brings new life. *Amen.*

Let his resurrection power bring healing and hope to those for whom we pray, For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Especially we pray for Valorie Lephart, Vivian, Paul, Sue & Michael. Baby Drake, Aria, Charlie, Willow, George & Sandy Luther, Clare McElroy, Martha Mackey, Phil Bennett, Beth and Ray, Bill, Janet, Chris, Matthew, Janice, Carolyn Stacks, David Petro, Judith Junda, Sheila Smith, Kathy Hill, Sherry Ockial , Franny E., Kevin, Patty, Erin, Pat Newyear, Gail, Sue, Susan Shepherd, Katherine R., Bill Trsek, and Riley Gumto

We celebrate the anniversary of Phil and Bobbin Davis

**The Peace****BCP 360****Announcements****Holy Communion**

Offertory Hymn

Grace Choir

The Doxology

The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharist Prayer A***BCP 365**

Sanctus

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord***Praise Book S-125**

Memorial Acclamation

The Great Amen

**Praise Book**

The Breaking of the Bread

**BCP p 364**

Fraction Hymn

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia***Praise Book S-154**

Communion Hymn

*Because He Lives***Praise Book #16**

The Post-Communion Prayer

**BCP p 365**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

*We know that Christ is raised***Blue Hymnal #296**

The Dismissal

## **A Sourton Welcome**

**We extend a special welcome** to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, very rich, comfortable, or very poor.

**We extend a particular welcome** to wailing babies and excited toddlers.

**We welcome** you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing', just woke up, or just out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or haven't been to church since Jack's christening.

**We extend a special welcome** to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artist, tree-huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians, vegans, junk food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps, or don't like 'organized religion'. (We're not that keen on it either!)

**We offer a welcome** to those that think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to church.

**We welcome** those who are tattooed, pierced or both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as children, or got lost on the road and wound up here by mistake.

We are here **to welcome** pilgrims, holiday makers, seekers, doubters.....and **YOU!**