

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

May 11, 2025

Worship Focus  
**Because He Lives:**  
**We Know Jesus is Trustworthy and True**



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# Order of Service: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Order of Service

The Service: Setting One

## ✘ Gathering ✘

### OPENING GATHERING RITE

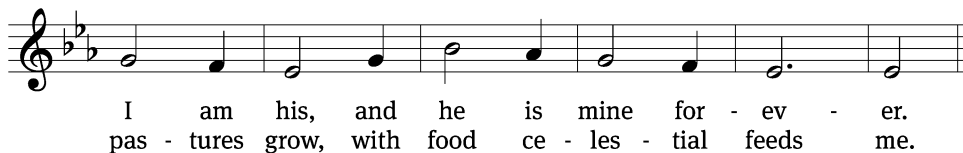
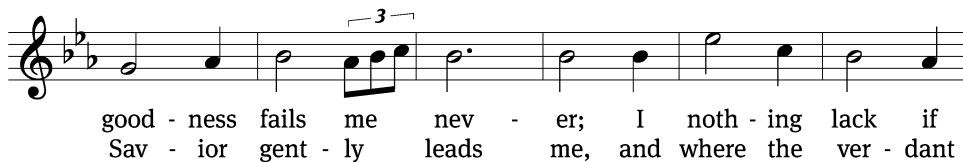
Please stand

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

**Amen.**

The Lord declares: As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. (*Ezekiel 34*)

**“Hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands:  
‘He who scattered Israel will gather them  
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’** (*Jeremiah 31*)



We all like sheep have gone astray. (*Isaiah 53*)

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.

**I well remember them,  
and my soul is downcast within me.**

Yet this I call to mind  
and therefore I have hope:

**Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.**

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

**I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him." (Lamentations 3)**

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Peter 2)



3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but  
yet in love he sought me and on his shoul - der  
gent - ly laid and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.

See, the Sovereign Lord comes . . .

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. (Isaiah 40)



4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with  
you, dear Lord, be - side me, your rod and staff my  
com - fort still, your cross be - fore to guide me.

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. (*Mark 6*)

**He said, “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (*Jn 10*)**

The Lord their God will save his people on that day as a shepherd saves his flock. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown. (*Zechariah 9*)

5 You spread a ta - ble in my sight, a  
ban - quet here be - stow - ing; your oil of wel - come,  
my de - light; my cup is o - ver - flow - ing!

The Lord says, “I will tend them in a good pasture,... I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak. . .” (*Ezekiel 34*)

**He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.**

And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. (*Micah 5*)

**the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’**

‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’” (*Revelation 7*)

6 And so through all the length of days your  
good - ness fails me nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I  
sing your praise with - in your house for - ev - er!

*Be seated*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## ✠ The Word ✠

### FIRST READING

Acts 13:15, 16a, 26–39

*St. Paul points out that Jesus' death and resurrection both fulfilled the Scripture. They prove not only that we are forgiven, but that God's promises are trustworthy and true.*

<sup>ACTS 13:15</sup>After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak."

<sup>16</sup>Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: . . .

. . .<sup>26</sup>"Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. <sup>27</sup>The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. <sup>29</sup>When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup>But God raised him from the dead, <sup>31</sup>and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

<sup>32</sup>"We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors <sup>33</sup>he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

"You are my son;  
today I have become your father.'

<sup>34</sup>God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said,

"I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.'

<sup>35</sup>So it is also stated elsewhere:

"You will not let your holy one see decay.'

<sup>36</sup>"Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. <sup>37</sup>But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

<sup>38</sup>"Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. <sup>39</sup>Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

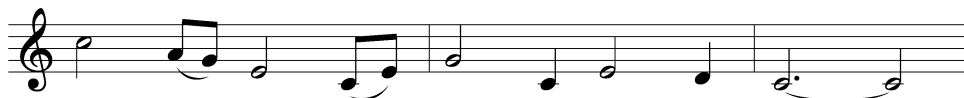
23F - My Shepherd Will Supply My Need



1 My shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je -  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, his  
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at -



ho - vah is his name; in pas - tures fresh he  
 pres - ence is my stay; one word of his sup -  
 tend me all my days; oh, may his house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.  
 port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
 my a - bode and all my work be praise.



He brings my wan - d'ring spir - it back when  
 His hand, in sight of all my foes, will  
 There would I find a set - tled rest while



I for - sake his ways and leads me, for his  
 still my ta - ble spread; my cup with bless - ings  
 oth - ers go and come, no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
 o - ver - flows; his oil a - noints my head.  
 or a guest but like a child at home.

## SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9–17

*God's promise to lead all believers from great tribulation to the green pastures of heaven is trustworthy and true. St. John sees that promise fulfilled through the work of the Lamb.*

REVELATION 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

<sup>11</sup>All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying:

“Amen!

Praise and glory

and wisdom and thanks and honor

and power and strength

be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

<sup>14</sup>I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup>Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:14

*After a brief introduction, the congregation sings the refrain. The cantor sings the tone. Cong. repeats the refrain.*

*Refrain*



*Tone*



*Refrain*

## GOSPEL READING

John 10:22–30

*Because our Good Shepherd is trustworthy and true, we eagerly listen to his voice.*

JOHN 10:22 Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. <sup>24</sup>The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

<sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## SEEK YE FIRST

*Calvary Choir sings; handbells accompany.*

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,  
And all these things will be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find,  
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia!  
(Repeat of verses follows)*

## ✠ Sermon ✠

Revelation 7:15a

# In Christ, Your Dreams Do Come True!

*Please stand*

## ✠ The Confession of Faith ✠

### APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of  
God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.*

*Offerings can be given in any of these ways:*

- *Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary*
- *On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>*
- *Scan the QR code to the right...*



*Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card,  
or by filling out the card in the pew and placing it in the offering plate as you leave. The Connection  
Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website,  
<https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the QR code above.*

**11:00 – Service continues on page 11 with the Rite of Confirmation**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (8:00)

*You may remain seated for the Prayer of the Church*

Jesus, you are both our loving Shepherd and the Lamb who sits on the throne. To you be blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might forever and ever. Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. **We will fear no evil, for you are with us.**

Let us hear your voice, that we are not allured by the madness of the world but follow you closely on your righteous path. Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. **We will fear no evil, for you are with us.**

Bring more and more people to join that multitude that no one can count from every nation, tribe, people and language. Let your Word of salvation reach the ends of the earth through the witness of your people. Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. **We will fear no evil, for you are with us.**

Our Father in heaven, from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its name, you describe your tender comfort as being like a mother's comfort. We give you thanks for providing love and care through our mothers. Give Christian mothers strength and wisdom from your Word, that they may glorify you in all they do and be a blessing to their children. Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. **We will fear no evil, for you are with us.**

Like sheep we have all gone astray. Graciously forgive our sins and restore our souls by your Holy Spirit that we may remain in your Word and in steadfast faith. Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. **We will fear no evil, for you are with us.**

In your great mercy wipe away every tear from the eyes of those who are sad, sick, or in the shadow of death. *[We pray especially for...]* Spread the tent of your protection over them and assure them that no one can snatch them from your hand. Lord our Shepherd, in you we lack nothing. **We will fear no evil, for you are with us.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Listen, Lord, to the thoughts and cares of our hearts.

*Silent prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, good Shepherd of the sheep, you came to seek the lost and gather them to your fold. Have compassion on those who have wandered from you. Feed those who hunger, bind up those who are broken in heart and strengthen those who are weak that we rely on your care, find comfort in your love and abide in your guidance all the days of our lives; for your name's sake. **Amen.**

**8:00 – service continues on page 15 with the Sermon Hymn**

## **RITE OF CONFIRMATION (11:00 am)**

*Confirmation is a public profession of the Christian faith, following a period of instruction. It is a rite by which one is recognized as properly prepared to receive the Lord's Supper. Those being confirmed approach the altar.*

**Genevieve Rose Frum**

**Charles Robert Hamilton**

**Abigail Helena Michael**

**Leah Susa Samuel**

**Emelia Ann Smith**

**Henry Jonathan Valleskey**

**Matthew Alexander Walker**

## **ADDRESS**

My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven.

## **RESPONSES**

I now ask each of you:

Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshiping with you today?

**I am.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**I do reject him.**

Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God?

**I do.**

Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God?

**I do.**

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to live a life that pleases God, to value his Word and sacraments, and to witness to your Savior wherever you go?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

## PRAYER

*The pastor speaks to the congregation:*

Friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another and especially for the youth of the church. On this special day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful to the Savior until we die. Let us pray.

Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who became sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## INVITATION

*The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:*

I now invite each of you to come forward to receive a blessing from the Lord and a word of encouragement from the Scriptures.

## BLESSINGS

*Those being confirmed may approach the altar. The minister may lay his hand on the head of each and speak one of the following blessings. A passage from the Scripture may also be read.*

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your heart and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

The Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, renew and increase in you the gift of the Holy Spirit for your strengthening in faith, your growth in grace, your patience in suffering, and for the blessed hope of eternal life.

The God of peace sanctify you through and through and keep you blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*The minister says:*

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**



## SERMON HYMN

804 – I Am Jesus' Little Lamb



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb; ev - er glad at  
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my  
3 Who so hap - py as I am, e - ven now the



heart I am, for my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,  
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,  
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



knows my need and well pro - vides me, loves me ev - 'ry  
in - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; when I thirst, he  
by his an - gel host at - tend - ed, he shall fold me



day the same, e - ven calls me by my name.  
bids me go where the qui - et wa - ters flow.  
to his breast, there with - in his arms to rest.

*Stand*

## PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Brother and sisters go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

757 – Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd



1 Gra - cious Sav - ior, gen - tle Shep - herd, chil - dren all are  
2 Ten - der Shep - herd, nev - er leave them, nev - er let them  
3 By your ho - ly Word in - struct them, fill their minds with  
4 Taught to love the ho - ly prais - es which on earth your



dear to you; may your lov - ing arms en - fold them  
go a - stray; by your warn - ing love di - rect - ed,  
heav'n - ly light; by your pow'r - ful grace con - vince them  
chil - dren sing, with their lips and hearts, sin - cere - ly,



in your care their whole life through. By your tend - ing  
may they walk the nar - row way. Thus di - rect them,  
al - ways to ap - prove what's right. Let them feel your  
glad thank - of - f'rings may they bring, then with all the



and pro - tect - ing keep them safe in all they do.  
thus de - fend them lest they fall an eas - y prey.  
yoke is eas - y, let them find your bur - den light.  
saints in glo - ry join to praise their Lord and King.

*After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.*