

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026



in the  
**GREAT FIFTY  
DAYS OF EASTER**  
to Celebrate Jesus  
Rose from the Dead!

**Alleluia! Christ is  
risen!**

**CHURCH OF THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD  
PARISH OF LANCASTER**

*Diocese of Fredericton / Anglican Church of Canada*

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*Bishop*  
*Incumbent*  
*Church Wardens*  
*Parish Administrator*  
*Organist & Choir Director*  
*Sexton*

Archbishop David Edwards  
The Rev'd Christopher Ketch  
Paul Desjardins, Chris Titus  
Lori Maker  
David Mitchell  
Larry Totton

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We acknowledge that the land on which  
we gather is the traditional unceded  
territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet)  
and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

**THE GATHERING OF THE CHURCH****Greeting**

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

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise “Alleluia No. 1” CP 405**  
**Invitation, Confession and Prayer of Forgiveness**

*Officiant* Dear friends in Christ,  
while we turn our hearts and minds  
to worship almighty God,  
let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments  
and to live in love and peace with our neighbour.

*All* **Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will,**

**and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Officiant* Merciful God,  
grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,  
that we may be cleansed from all our sins  
and serve you with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*People* **Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Peace of Christ**

*Officiant* We are the body of Christ; in the one Spirit we were all  
baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that  
makes for peace and builds up our common life.  
The Lord be with you.

*People* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the peace of Christ.*

### **Collect of the Day**

O God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
by the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make us perfect in every good work to do your will,  
and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

*Officiant* Thank you, Father, for making yourself known to us  
and showing the way of salvation through faith in your Son.  
We ask you now to teach and encourage us through your  
Word, so that we may be ready to serve you; for the glory of

the One in whose name we pray, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

(from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, Anglican Church of Australia 1999)

**First Reading**      Acts 2:42-47

A reading from Acts.

<sup>42</sup> They 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 by 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.      [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**      *Psalm 23*

1      The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
         I shall not be in want.

2      **He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
         and leads me beside still waters.**

3      He revives my soul \*  
         and guides me along right pathways for his name's  
         sake.

4      **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.**

5      You spread a table before me in the presence of those  
         who trouble me; \*  
         you have anointed my head with oil,  
         and my cup is running over.

6      **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all  
the days of my life, \*  
         and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for  
ever.**

## Second Reading 1 Peter 2:19-25

A reading from First Peter.

<sup>19</sup> For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <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, free from 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. [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"* CP 520

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his  
and he is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,

thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never;  
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever!

*Text* Psalm 23 para Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

*Tune* DOMINUS REGIT ME, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876) desc. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

## **Gospel** John 10:1-10

Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<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.

*[NRSV-A]*

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon** Joyce Mitchell

**The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant*  
*All*

Let us confess our faith as we say,  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

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

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

## **THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*Leader* Let us join in prayer with God's faithful people throughout the world, saying "God of love: hear our prayer."

We pray for the unity of your church, that our life may reflect the love you have shown us.  
God of love.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We ask your grace for *David* our bishop, *Chris* our priest, and for all who minister in word and in action, that we may bear faithful witness to your good news.

God of love.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We seek your peace and justice in our world, our country and our community, that the needy may never be forgotten.  
God of love.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We ask your blessing on our homes, our friends and family, and on those who live alone, that we may know your presence ever near us.  
God of love.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We name before you all whom you have given us to pray for [*especially....*], knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can ask or imagine.  
God of love.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We commend to you all who have died [*especially....*] that our trust in you may deepen as you show us the depth of your mercy.  
God of love.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We offer our thanks and praise for all you have done for us, rejoicing in the knowledge that you are with us always.  
God of love.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We look for your purposes to be accomplished and ask you to fill us with the strength and vision to further your reign.  
God of love.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

### **Offertory “The Lord’s My Shepherd” MP 1008**

1        The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.  
          He makes me lie in pastures green.  
          He leads me by the still, still waters,  
          His goodness restores my soul.

*Refrain*        *And I will trust in You alone,*

*and I will trust in You alone,  
for Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

2 He guides my ways in righteousness,  
and He anoints my head with oil,  
and my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights. *Refrain*

3 And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
for You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
are the comfort I need to know. *Refrain*

*"The Lord's my Shepherd"*  
Words (adapted) and Music Stuart Townsend  
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*Officiant* Let us pray.  
*All* **Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the  
glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for  
everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you, and of your own  
do we give you.**

### **A Litany of Thanksgiving**

*Leader* Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so  
freely bestowed upon us.

*Leader* For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and  
sky and sea.

*People* ***we thank you, Lord.***

*Leader* For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,  
revealing the image of Christ,

*People* ***we thank you, Lord.***

*Leader* For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and  
our friends,

*People* ***we thank you, Lord.***

*Leader* For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,  
*People* ***we thank you, Lord.***

*Leader* For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and  
play,  
*People* ***we thank you, Lord.***

*Leader* For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering  
and faithful in adversity,  
*People* ***we thank you, Lord.***

*Leader* For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,  
*People* ***we thank you, Lord.***

*Leader* For the communion of saints, in all times and places,  
*People* ***we thank you, Lord.***

*Leader* Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and  
promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
*People* ***to him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and  
the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.***

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Officiant* And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,  
*All* **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy  
name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on  
earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our  
daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as  
we forgive those who trespass against us. And  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from  
evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and  
the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE CHURCH DEPARTS TO WITNESS AND TO SERVE**

### **Dismissal**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Hymn** “*Glorious in Majesty*” CP 618

### **Postlude**

## Those serving today's worship and learning:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Bev, Sharon & Carol
<i>Sunday School</i>	Laura Janes
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Pam Boucher
<i>First Reader</i>	Lay Reader
<i>Second Reader</i>	Marilyn Galbraith
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Officiant
<i>Organist &amp; Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Officiant &amp; preacher</i>	Joyce Mitchell
<i>Guitarist</i>	Shayne Galbraith
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Susan Jack

## Those serving in our outreach this week:

<b>Sun, April 26, 11:45 am</b>	Lori McGovern
HVHS Lunch Programme preparation (Large Hall kitchen)	Art VanWart Susan VanWart Ann Stone
<b>Mon, April 27, 11:30 am</b>	Bruce MacLeod
HVHS Lunch Programme delivery (from Large Hall)	Robert Green

*Who's serving next week is on the Narthex bulletin board.*

### THIS WEEK

- Wed, April 29, 10:00 am**    Saint John and District Senior's Shuffleboard (Large Hall) For more info contact Pauline Wilson at 506 738-8677
- Wed, April 29, 7:00 pm**    Choir practice (Small Hall) For more info contact David Mitchell at 506 738-2798

*Who's serving next week is on the Narthex bulletin board.*

### FOR OUR WORSHIP and LEARNING

**Next Sunday – May 3 *Fifth Sunday of Easter*** Scripture readings  
Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

## NOTICES

### Food Bank

Please remember the **West Side Food Bank** with a toonie or a loonie in the can in the Narthex, or a donation in a special envelope marked with your name or number. We aim to support the Food Bank by at least \$ 200/month!



### ***Happy Birthday this Week to:***

Bill Chilton, April 26  
Janet Brown, April 27  
Katelynn Gagnon, May 1  
Sherry Desjardins, May 2

***“Remember you are a Child of God through Baptism”***

## PRAYER

### **Prayer for folks in nursing or special care homes**

Ginny Abbott, Frances Finley, Ann Hoben, Ruth Northeast, Arlene Trask

### **Prayer for those in hospital or sick at home**

Andrew Aalund, Diane Basque, Margaret Boyer, Edith Chilton, Shelly Clark Collins, Linda Cunningham, Jo-Ann Diamond, Bonnie Dean, Wendy DeWitt, Ernest Ellingwood, Barb Ellis, Debbie Green, Kaye Mallory, Pam Melanson, Michael Penchoff, Susan Penchoff, Carol Price, Margaret Ann Reid, Lois Shaw, Bob Sherwood, Mykayla Spinney, Norm Toole, Dennis Totton, Joe Totton, Robbie Wong.

### **Parish Cycle of Prayer for Week of *Apr 26-May 2***

**Mon:** Carol Price  
**Tue:** Jennifer Pritchett, Phil Martin and Family  
**Wed:** Margaret Ann Reid  
**Thur:** Robert and Ann Reid  
**Fri:** Our Sexton, Larry Totton

*Please pray for these parishioners and ministry this week.*

### **Saint John Mission to Seafarers Prayer Cycle:**

In April, we pray for shipping companies and ship managers, that they may conduct business that is profitable and offer employment that is fair to the seafarers.