

The Lutheran Church of St. Mark
75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033
Church Office (860) 633-1188
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Service of Word and Sacrament The Fourth Sunday of Easter April 26, 2026



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 TO ALL WHO HAVE COME TO WORSHIP THE LORD TODAY!

*Guests—please take a moment to fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.
We would like to acknowledge your time with us and extend a friendly hand of hospitality.*

*Please **turn all cell phones off** or on vibrate before the worship service begins.*

**Stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

*The responses of the people are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

setting by Gerhard Krapf

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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.

*GATHERING HYMN *Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!* ELW 385

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joi - ce and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.
 Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615
 Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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*GREETING

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

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



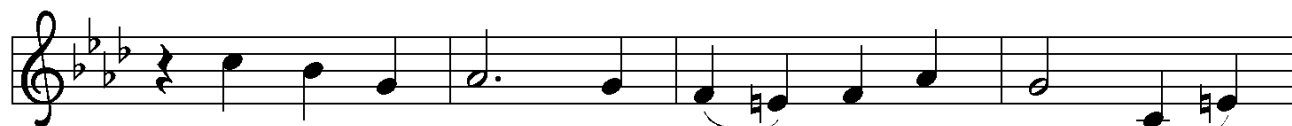
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Refrain*

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.

WORD

FIRST READING

ACTS 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

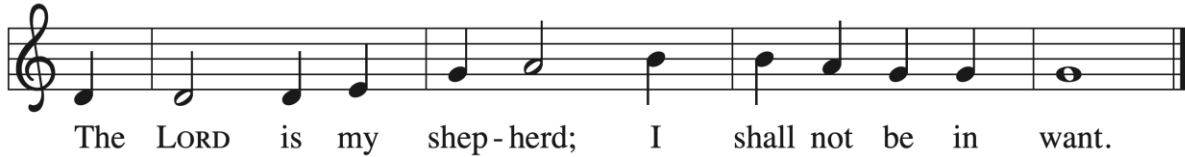
A reading from Acts:

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ 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.

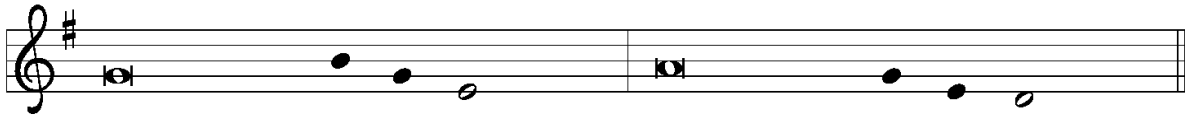
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The refrain is sung by all at the beginning of the Psalm and then at each R.

Refrain



Tone



- ¹ The Lord | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
- ² **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**
- ³ You restore my | soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways | for your 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. R**
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
- ⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever. R**

SECOND READING

1 PETER 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

A reading from 1 Peter:

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

Jesus says, I am | the good shepherd.
I know my own and my | own know me.

*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 10:1-10

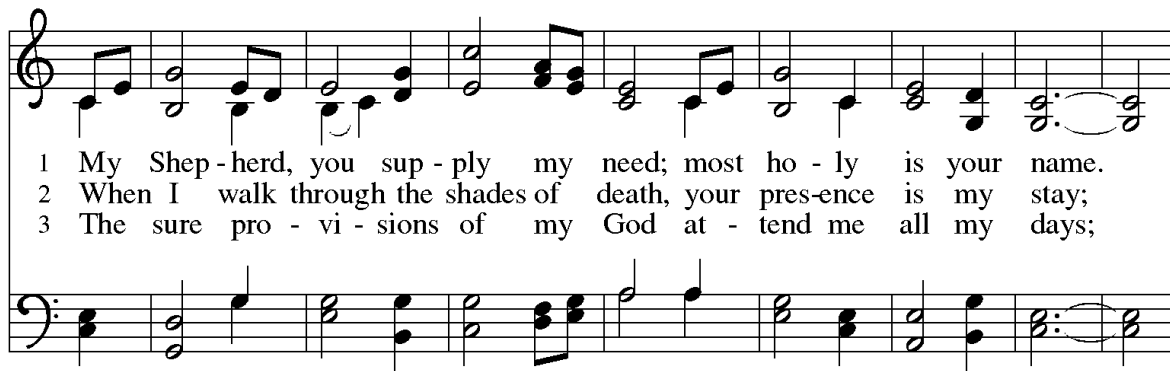
*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership.
Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹“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. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The 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, O Christ.**

HOMILY



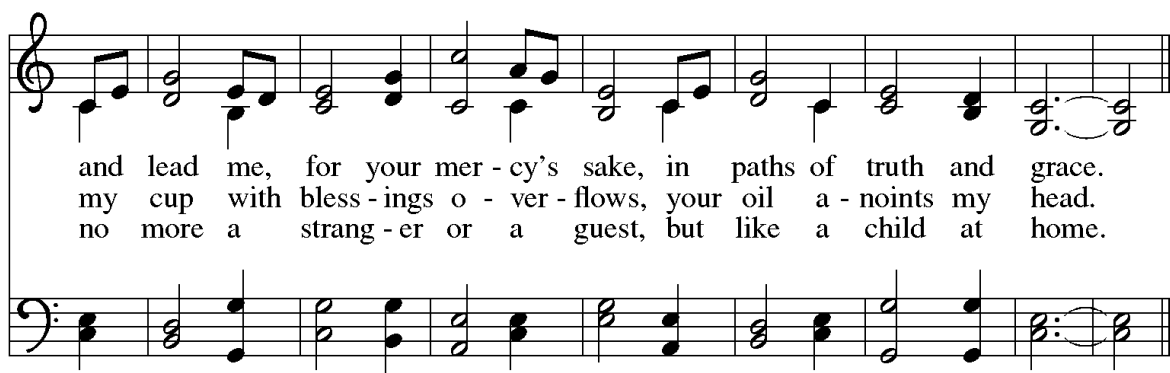
1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres - ence is my stay;
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.
no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

*NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope we confess what we believe.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The prayer leader prays the petition. The congregation responds to the petitions that end "Lord in your mercy" with: "**hear our prayer.**" and those that end "O, God we give you thanks" with: "**Thanks be to God.**" The prayers conclude with the pastoral petition followed by a congregational "**Amen.**"*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O, God we give you thanks. **Thanks be to God.**

Into your hands... Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

MEAL

*THE PEACE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Easter Carol

Alfred V. Fedak

“Christ the Lord is risen today,”
All creation joins to say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply,
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell!
Death in vain forbids him rise;
Christ has opened Paradise!
Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King,
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once he all doth save,
Where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
Following our exalted Head,
Made like him, like him we rise,
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven,
Praise to thee by both be given,
Thee we greet triumphant now,
Hail the Resurrection, thou!

King of glory, soul of bliss,
Everlasting life is this,
Thee to know, thy power to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!
Alleluia!

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

***PREFACE DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed ... unending hymn:

*SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed... until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore,... now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

*COMMUNION INVITATION

Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a **gluten-free host**. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate you would like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest in the form of an X.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

You satisfy the hungry heart

ELW 484



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joi - ce.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996

Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

***SACRAMENTAL BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

Those not receiving communion are invited to pray the following while communion is being distributed:

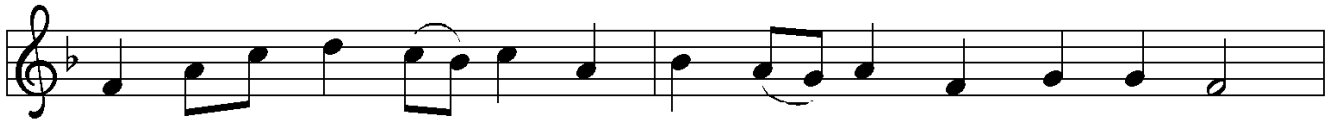
Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation. I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I am baptized into your death and resurrection. I seek you daily and worship and adore you. When I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul, as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness, through the proclamation of your holy Word, and through the prayers of your people; that I may remain united to you by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace. Be for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray this, trusting that you are my life, my peace, and my everlasting joy. Amen.

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

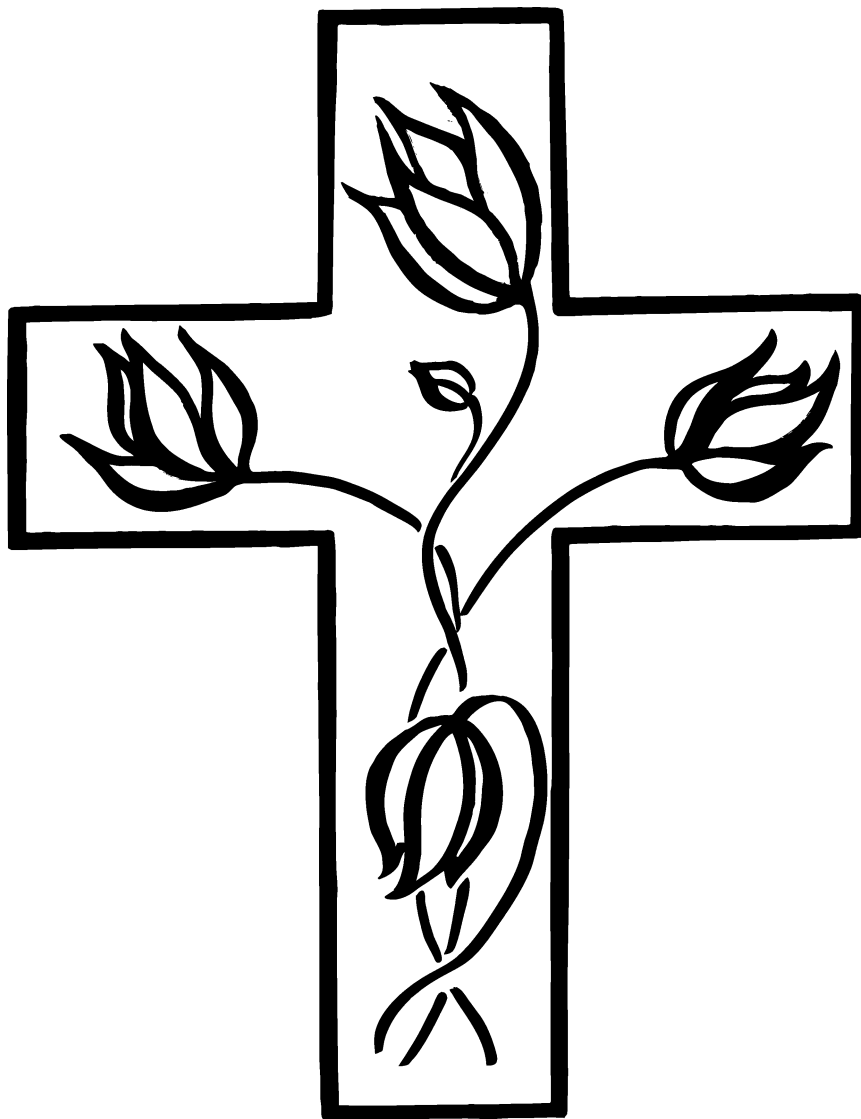
Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

The 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.**





1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms;
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms?



what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Ray & Jan Frick
in memory of Jan's mother, Ruth Mills.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please join us for our Annual Congregation Meeting after worship today.
- Join us tonight at 6:00pm in the church lounge for Bible Study.
- Join us for Easter Weekday Prayer Offices via Zoom: Matins on Tuesdays at 9:00am and Vespers on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Zoom link can be found on our website: www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org
- We are very much in need of microwavable lunch meals (mac & cheese, Chef Boyardee, etc) for the school backpack program. Put donations in the bin by the front door in the narthex. No cans, please, as they are too heavy for the kids to carry.
- On Saturday, May 9th, beginning at 6:30, The Lutheran Church of St. Mark will be holding our 11th annual Jacob's Well Cabaret event and silent auction. Our sanctuary becomes a stage.. Our halls will be filled with round tables, a refreshment table, and a silent auction display. There will be live entertainment, on this year's theme, BROADWAY! provided by White Rabbit Theater, directed by Adam Tortorello, and also, St. Mark talent. Appetizers, hot and cold drinks provided, BYOB if desired. Our silent auction consists of handmade items as well as several large themed gift baskets. Upon arrival, guests will purchase red tickets for \$1 each. During the evening, tickets are dropped into the bag at each basket and station, and names are drawn for the winners around 8:30. There will also be a basket for general donations to our projects for clean water, which we support via the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) World Hunger projects. Come and bring a friend, and some dollar bills for tickets! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.
- The next Lunch Bunch will be Thursday, May 21 at 12:30pm, at The Mill on the River in South Windsor. Please RSVP to Ellen Z. by Monday May 18.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, April 26	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by GF & Friends & Annual Congregation Meeting
	6:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, April 28	9:00am	Matins via Zoom
Wednesday, April 29	7:00pm	Vespers via Zoom
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 3	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by Godfellas
	6:00pm	Bible Study



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Lutheran Church
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