



# FOLLOW ME

*My sheep hear my voice,  
and I know them,  
and they follow me.*

John 10:27 ESV



Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and School.

We gather to worship the only God and Savior: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **Follow the Shepherd's footsteps**

**April 26, 2026**

Easter 4

We are strangers on earth.

Our Shepherd suffered innocently and quietly. His suffering accomplished our greatest good. His suffering also left behind a trail for us sheep to follow.

Today's 8:00 a.m. worship is broadcast live on YouTube. The YouTube link can be found at the church's website:

[www.holytrinity.church](http://www.holytrinity.church)

After the service, the recording can be accessed at the same YouTube site.

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## ORDER OF SERVICE—SETTING FOUR

Hymn 445 stanzas 1,4,5      *He's Risen, He's Risen*



1 He's ris - en, he's ris - en, Christ Je - sus, the Lord;  
4 O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
5 Then sing your ho - san - nas and raise your glad voice;



he o - pened death's pris - on, the in - car - nate Word.  
Christ rose, and now o - pen is fair E - den's door.  
pro - claim the blest ti - dings that all may re - joice.



Break forth, hosts of heav - en, in ju - bi - lant song  
For all our trans - gres - sions his blood does a - tone;  
Laud, hon - or, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:



and earth, sea, and moun - tain, the prais - es pro - long.  
re - deemed and for - giv - en, we now are his own.  
with Fa - ther and Spir - it he ev - er shall reign.

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

C: **Amen.**

### CONFESSIO

P: Blessed is the person whose rebellion is forgiven,

C: **whose sin is covered.**

P: Blessed is the person against whom the Lord charges no guilt,

C: **and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

P: I said, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord,"

C: **and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

*Silent time for personal confession of sin.*

P: Let us confess together:

**C: Father, I am sinful, and I have sinned against you.**

**I am not worthy to be called your child.**

**Yet in mercy, you sacrificed your only Son to take away my guilt.**

**For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.**

P: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave.

**C: We have peace with God now and forever. Amen.**

*Hymn 442 (stanzas 2,3)*

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Alleluia*



2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!



sin - less in the sin - ners' stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!



"Christ is ris'n," to - day we cry; Al - le - lu - ia!  
while, in strange and awe - full strife, Al - le - lu - ia!



now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
met to - geth - er death and life. Al - le - lu - ia!

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

### **First Lesson — Acts 2:42-47**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23



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 Lesson—1 Peter 2:19-25

For it brings favor if, because of a consciousness of God, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.

For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth; when he was insulted, he did not insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

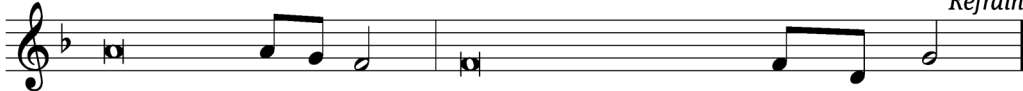


*Refrain*



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

*Tone*



I am the good shep - herd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

## Gospel—John 10:1-10

“Truly I tell you, anyone who doesn’t enter the sheep pen by the gate but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought all his own outside, he goes ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will never follow a stranger; instead they will run away from him, because they don’t know the voice of strangers.” Jesus gave them this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

Jesus said again, “Truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn’t listen to them. I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

Hymn 531    *The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns*



1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is  
2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords is  
3 The joy of all who dwell a - bove, the  
4 To them the cross, with all its shame, with



crowned with glo - ry now;      a roy - al di - a -  
his, is his by right,      the King of kings and  
joy of all be - low      to whom he man - i -  
all its grace, is giv'n;      their name, an ev - er -



dem a - dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.  
Lord of lords and heav'n's e - ter - nal light;  
fests his love and grants his name to know.  
last - ing name, their joy, the joy of heav'n.

- 5 They suffer with their Lord below,  
they reign with him above,  
their profit and their joy to know  
the myst'ry of his love.
- 6 The cross he bore is life and health,  
though shame and death to him:  
his people's hope, his people's wealth,  
their everlasting theme.

Sermon—1 Peter 2:19-25  
*Follow the Shepherd's footsteps*

**NICENE CREED**

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

## OFFERING

*We give with deep gratitude and joy over our Savior's victory for us. We give our offerings regularly and generously in proportion to what we have to support the work of telling the resurrection message through our church and school.*

*You may place your offering in the plates or use Online Giving.*

*The QR code at right will also take you to the giving site.*

*Thank you for your offerings.*



## MUSICAL OFFERING

*Please stand.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, we have heard the sweet sound of your familiar and loving voice in the gospel and have feasted in the green pastures of your Holy Word. Bless your Word in our lives. Use its message to nourish and sustain us as we journey through this life to the next. What joy it is to know that you laid down your life for the sheep—even sheep like us.

Gracious Shepherd, we are truly confused and foolish without you. Forgive us for the times we wander from you and stray from the call of your voice. Restore us to your fold, and protect us from the evil one. When Satan comes in the sheep's clothing of false teaching, expose his lies and guide us in your truth. When temporary pleasures beckon us to follow the wide road to hell, use your rod and staff to curb our sinful nature and lead us in paths of righteousness.

Guiding Shepherd, bless your Church with faithful under-shepherds—pastors who proclaim your death and resurrection as they minister to the souls in their care. Give all ministers of the gospel an unwavering devotion to your Word.

Tender Shepherd, look with special care on all who suffer from loneliness, disease, accident, or loss. Lift them into your comforting arms, and embrace them with the warmth of your love. Carry them through life's troubling times. Renew hope and joy in their lives.

Loving Shepherd, we pray also for your "other sheep." Let your voice be heard in all the world. Prosper the work of our missionaries at home and abroad. Give us all the zeal and courage to share with our friends and neighbors the good

news of sins forgiven. Use our witness to gather the elect into one fold under your care.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private prayers.

*Silent prayer.*

Eternal Shepherd, when our days on earth come to an end and we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, lead us safely to our eternal home. There we will enjoy your goodness and mercy forever.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **THE SACRAMENT**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

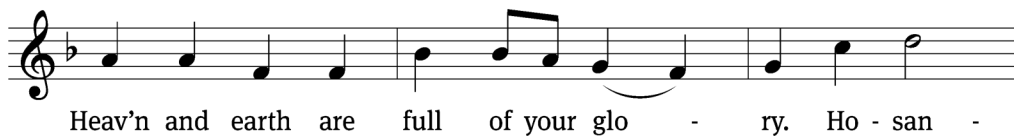
**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: By his willing sacrifice on the cross, Christ our Lord took away the sins of the world. By his glorious resurrection, he restored everlasting life. We join the saints on earth and hosts of heaven to praise God's holy name:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

The musical score is written in a single treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men. A - men." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some notes beamed together and others held as half notes. There are several slurs over groups of notes, and the piece ends with a double bar line.

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

*Please be seated.*

### DISTRIBUTION

*Holy Trinity offers the Lord's Supper to communicant members of our congregation (and congregations in WELS and ELS). If you are not a communicant member and are interested in going through a course of study to prepare for receiving the Lord's Supper here, please speak with the pastor.*

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: **his mercy endures forever.**

P: Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing our faith with the sacrament of your body and blood. Lift our hearts with your forgiveness, renew our confidence in your grace, empower our love for others, and lead us to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.

C: **Amen.**

### BLESSING

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.

C: **Amen.**

### Hymn 551 *Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep*



1 Je - sus, shep - herd of the sheep, who your  
2 In your prom - ise firm we stand, none can  
3 By your blood our souls were bought, by your  
4 Fa - ther, draw us to your Son; we with  
5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, join th'as -



Fa - ther's flock does keep, safe we wake and  
take us from your hand; speak— we hear— at  
life sal - va - tion wrought; by your light our  
joy will fol - low on till the work of  
sem - bly of the blest, gath - ered to e -



safe we sleep, guard - ed still by you.  
your com - mand, we will fol - low you.  
feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.  
grace is done, there to live with you.  
ter - nal rest in the fold with you.

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

Minister: Pastor Bart Brauer

Accompanist: Charlotte Farnworth

### Acknowledgements

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## **Sunday Education**

Sunday education for all begins at 9:15 a.m. The adults are discussing the book of Jude.

## **Bible Information Class**

Pastor Brauer is starting a new Bible information class on Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30 p.m. The course is called *The Wonders of God*. It is for anyone interested in learning what our church teaches and for any member looking to grow through a review.

## **Youth rally**

This upcoming summer our youth (teens who are entering 9th-grade to those who have just graduated from high school) have an amazing opportunity to connect with other WELS youth from around the country. The WELS International Youth Rally is being held at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, from July 14-17.

If you are so inclined, please consider giving to help our youth attend! You can donate towards the Youth Rally Fund on our online giving portal. Please see the bulletin board for more information on the rally, a letter from Joel Plocher, and to sign-up. You can also go to <https://welsyouthrally.net/> for more information on the youth rally.

### **Bible study for busy women**

Ladies who are interested in an online evening Bible study on Zoom either Wednesdays or Thursdays from May to June, please send an email to Dee Eliason at *bdeliason@hotmail.com*.

### **HTLS piano recital**

The annual HTLS student piano recital is Friday, May 1, at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join us as we listen to selections from our talented grade school piano students.

### **Now Hiring**

Mrs. Brown, one of our school office administrators, is stepping down at the end of this school year. We thank Mrs. Brown for her service to Holy Trinity!

This means that we are hiring a new office administrator. The position is two days per week while school is in session with limited hours when school is not in session. You can view the position description in the weekly email. Interested candidates should submit a resume to Principal Gibson at *jgibson@htls-wa.net*.

Ideally, we will hire a candidate before this school year ends to provide on-the-job training.

### **This week at Holy Trinity**

Wednesday..... 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible class

Friday ..... 6:00 p.m. HTLS piano recital