

Easter 4

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

The focus of the Fourth Sunday of Easter is on the metaphor of the Shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the one who lays down his life for his sheep because of his great love for them. This one, prefigured in Psalm 23, is the shepherd who provides for, protects, and leads his sheep into green pastures and by still waters. This Shepherd suffered greatly for his sheep so they might never be lost or forsaken.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Communal Generosity

The newly baptized Christians who are being added to the community of believers are ones who held everything in common. Whoever had a need among them would be taken care of by the others. Even food was distributed evenly, and all existed with joy and thrived together as one body.

Psalm 23

Shepherd Lord

God's providence in our lives is like that of a shepherd who watches over the sheep, keeping them from harm, grazing them in fertile pastures, protecting them when they rest. The Shepherd King takes care of all our needs, no matter how small.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Righteous Endurance

As those who are devoted to Christ, we are bound to experience suffering because Jesus experienced all sorts of unjust suffering. Following his example, when we are abused, we refrain from abusing; when we are threatened, we do not return threats. We are freed from sin and healed by his wounds even as we are called to emulate his suffering in patience.

Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

The Good Shepherd

The shepherd knows his sheep by name, and his sheep know him. He will protect them and lead them, and they will not run from him, because they know his voice and trust his leadership. This Good Shepherd came so that all the sheep may have abundant life; he ensures this by offering his own life in their stead.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: White

During the Season of Easter:

- Use the Kyrie.
- Use the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Nicene Creed.

Consider making "Blessing Stones" for the children for today. Explain that shepherds (like young David in the Old Testament) used stones to keep wolves away from their flock. Tell the children, "Instead of throwing stones, here are some to keep so you know that you are blessed." On the stones you could write inspirational messages such:

- * You are loved!
- * You are never alone.
- * Be still and know that I am God.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	456	---	709	502	198	198
Christ the Lord is Risen Today	128	---	463	369	151	151
The Lord's My Shepherd	451	---	710	778	209	209
All People that on Earth Do Dwell	245	---	791	883	17	17
Alleluia, Jesus is Risen	---	674	474	377	---	---
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	---	731	739	773	206	206
Shall We Gather at the River?	---	690	---	423	275	275
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms	---	780	---	774	208	208
The Lord's My Shepherd	451	---	710	778	209	209
Blest Be the Tie That Binds	370	---	649	656	48	48

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The Reclaim Hymnal for Church and Home (Reclaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeRat "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

King of Love My Shepherd Is
(CCLI# 6529824)
King of Love
(CCLI# 7052881)
Trust In God
(CCLI# 7206001)
Who You Say I Am
(CCLI# 7102401)
Run to the Father
(CCLI# 7133494)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.