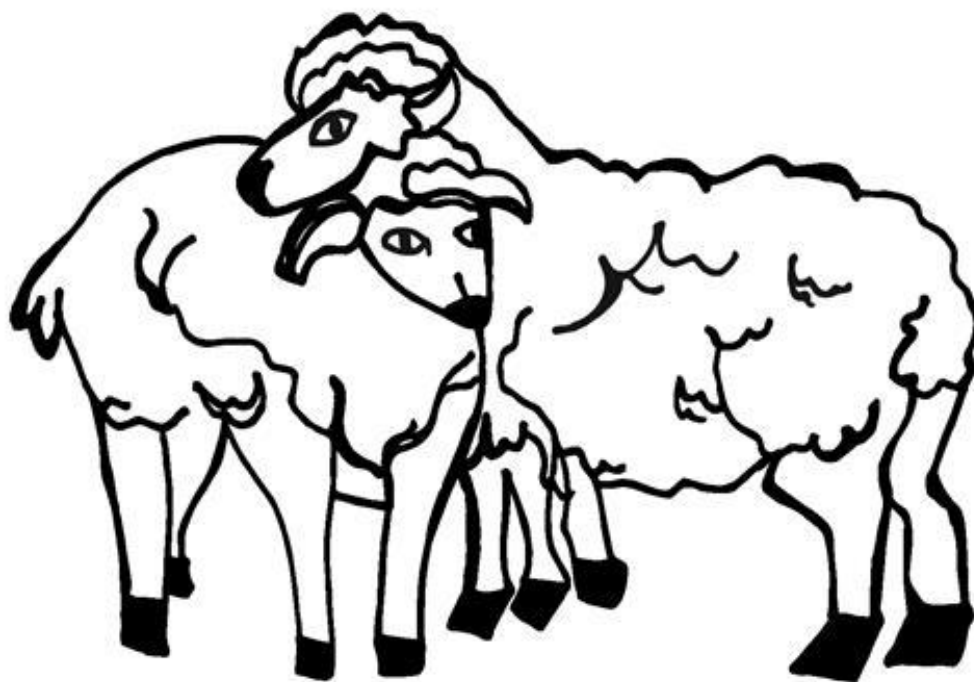


FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 26, 2026



MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH
80 GOCKLEY ROAD
STEVENS, PA 17578
717-336-8800

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

*Please stand if you are able

Ahava is playing this morning.

Welcome / Announcements

The Congregation is invited to sing

Preludes: *“Our God Reigns”*

-Leonard Smith Jr.

“Because He lives”

-Bill & Gloria Gaither

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #377 “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen”**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

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

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(a brief silence is observed)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

***GREETING**

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

C: And also with you.

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE**



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

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



***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen

† GOD'S WORD †

FIRST READING

ACTS 2:42-47

Lay Reader (Kristi Leonhard): A reading from Acts the 2nd chapter. *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.*

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

PSALM 23



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The 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.**

³You 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.**

⁵You 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.**

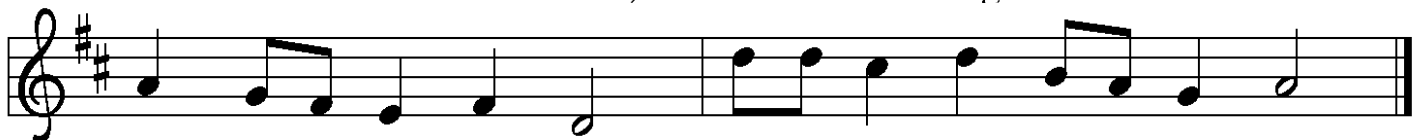
CHILDRENS SERMON

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Page 142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

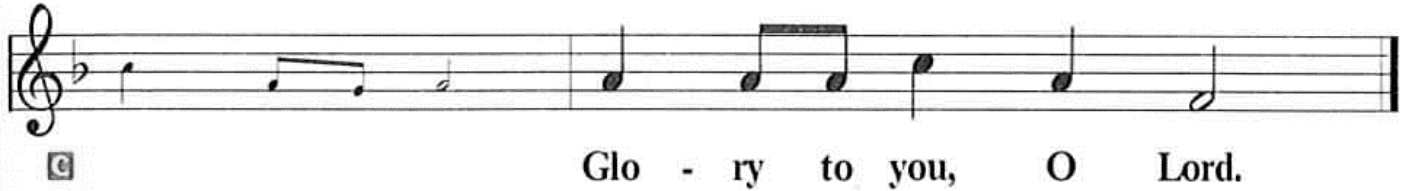


words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 10:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 10th chapter.



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.

[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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE: “We Need A Good Shepherd”

-Pastor Craven

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“Your Grace is Enough”*

-Matt Maher

***THE APOSTLE’S CREED**

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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

† Prayers of Intercession †

*P: Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

P: Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (*especially*). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
C: Amen

***THE PEACE**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

***OFFERING HYMN:**

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing!”

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Merciful Father,

C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

† WE CELEBRATE THE LORD’S SUPPER †

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.



***THE PREFACE:**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....
We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

***THE SANCTUS**



***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

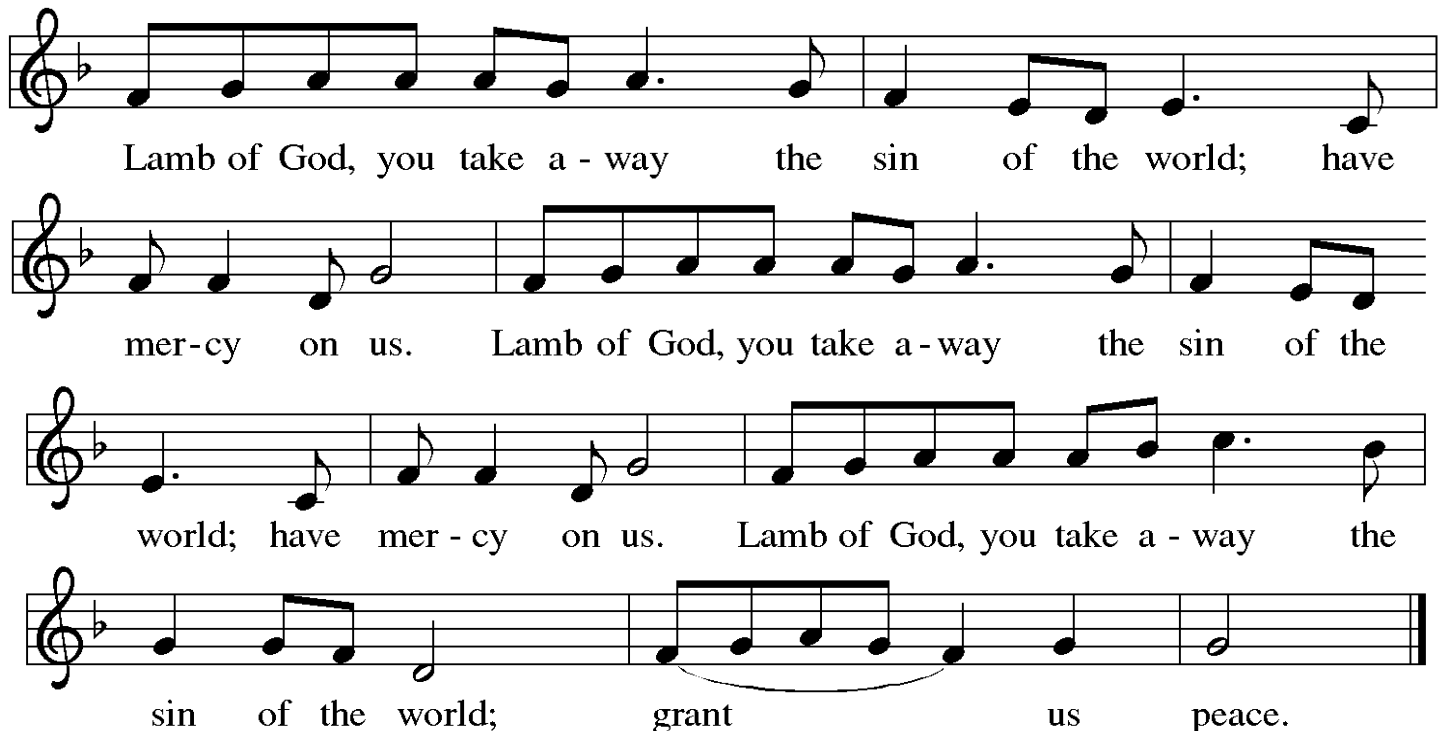
P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup and gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***TRADITIONAL LORD'S PRAYER**

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE AGNUS DEI



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.

All Baptized Christians are welcome for Communion.

(If you would like baptized, see Pastor Tim.).

We ask parents to bring their non-communing children with them for a blessing. To receive the sacrament wine, take an empty cup from the tray. A grape juice option and gluten free

communion wafers provided. If you cannot come to the Chancel, Communion will be taken to you.

Please notify an Usher.

Those in the parking lot partake of Communion at this time.

During Communion

Hymn #515: *“Break Now the Bread of Life”*

Hymn #461: *“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”*

Hymn #462: *“Now We Join in Celebration”*

Hymn #616: *“Jesus Remember Me”*

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

***Post Communion Canticle: Hymn #210:** *“Blessed Be God”*

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation,
The spirit of mercy.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen

† WE LEAVE TO SERVE †

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen Amen Amen (sung responsively)

***SENDING HYMN: #782** *“My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with joy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Kristi Leonhard

Communion Assistant: Lisa Reed

Psalmist: Choir

Videographer: Troy Adair

Soundboard: Joe Brubaker

Ushers: Kristi Leonhard, Joan Moore and Alternate Shawn Jeffers

Weekly Receipts Report as of 04/23/26	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	71
Online Attendance	179
General Receipts	\$2,961.00

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.



Geranium Flowers for Pentecost

1 plant is in a 5" pot and the cost is \$6.00

Complete your order form with payment, place in an envelope then either put it in the Special Flower mailbox or you can give it to Pat Haller.

Last day to order is Sunday May 17th.

You can pick up your flowers after the service on May 24th.

