

# Shepherd of the Hills

LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

APRIL 26, 2026 – “PAUL AND SILAS”



## WELCOME & GREETING

GATHERING HYMN | COME AND FILL OUR HEARTS (REPEAT 3 TIMES)

ELW #528

GATHERING

528

## Come and Fill Our Hearts

*Confitemini Domino*



*Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.*  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.



*Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!*  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!



## CALL TO WORSHIP

All are welcome in this holy house.

**We come together in Jesus' name.**

Blessed are you who have faith even through challenges.

**Jesus is here, bringing us healing and wholeness.**

## CONFESSION

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*(Pause for silence and reflection).*

Merciful God, **give us the willingness to be honest with ourselves, with one another, and with you about the ways in which we have caused harm in this world. Give us the openness to see where our actions or failures to act have led to pain in those closest to us and in those far away. Do not let us sink further into self-harm through self-blame and hatred, but give us the courage to set right our wrongs, and to return to you again and again for forgiveness.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The risen God has raised you to newness of life in Jesus' name. In Christ, you are a new creation, and God forgives you every wrong. Celebrate a world redeemed with all of creation and lavish the love you have received on all that is. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of radical welcome, **challenge us to hear your gospel in new and different ways, that our faith might be enriched and deepened as we struggle to find its meaning for us today. In the name of Jesus, who crossed boundaries and ministered to the marginalized, even to his own condemnation, we pray. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: ACTS 16:16-34

**Lector:** One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit,

**Pastor:** "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe."

**Lector:** The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice,

**Pastor:** "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 6:18-19, 22-23**

<sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>22</sup>"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

REV. JANET KETTERING

**HYMN OF THE DAY | WILL YOU LET ME BE YOUR SERVANT**

ELW #659

659

## Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as  
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers  
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time  
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll  
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

6 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to  
 7 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er  
 8 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,  
 9 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row  
 10 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

11 let you be my ser - vant, too.  
 12 walk the mile and bear the load.  
 13 speak the peace you long to hear.  
 14 till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
 15 let you be my ser - vant, too.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Amen.

## CONGREGATIONAL SHARING

### EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In a time before all knowing, God is, and God's breath fills the emptiness, creating: A universe, a world, an ecology, a biology and humankind. All humankind: No exceptions, no imperfections; all of us beloved, just as we are.

In a time before all knowing, the Christ is, watching the creating, and stepping into it: Becoming, living, dying, and rising, for all of us. All humankind: No exceptions, no reservations; all of us just as we are, God's beloved.

In a time before all knowing, the Spirit is, and moves through every part of creation: Consoling, interceding, leading, and refreshing all the world, including us. All humankind: No exceptions, no exclusions; all of us, just as we are, God's beloved.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With renewed confidence in your power and love, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *(A brief silence).*

You have seen your servants through every trial. Stir up today the power of your Gospel to transform, renew and lead new believers to your community. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Free us from our bondage to fossil fuels, single-use plastics, and other practices that cause harm to your beautiful creation. Sustain the hope and hard work of those who labor to find new ways to live in harmony with all that you have made for the good of those yet to come. We praise you for the awesome power and quiet beauty of the world's waters and humbly ask that you bless the earth with moisture wherever it's needed. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Forgive us for engaging in the atrocities of war which always result in the suffering of the innocents. Teach us and our leaders to use our gifts for good and not for dishonest gain. Help us focus our efforts on behalf of those in need instead of exploiting others for our own benefit. May honesty, integrity, and love prevail over greed and manipulation. We pray for the world, and especially those engaged in war: the United States, Israel, Iran, Ukraine, Russia, and all others known to you. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Your resurrection gives hope to all who despair of ever feeling whole again. Strengthen all who are in recovery, rehabilitation, or chronic treatment, and show them what hope looks like in the face of Christ. We pray especially for Chris Newkirk, Devon Warren, Pastor Phil, Matt, Brett, Rick and Kelly, Terry, Jim and Sally, Dave, Dorothy, Clover, and all those named on our Prayer Chain. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for strength for all those who provide care for their loved ones, especially James and Chris Elkins, and Kirk, Clare, and Gwen Fallon. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

God of wholeness, we pray for the work of the Joshua School. May our relationship with them reflect your love and care for those with special needs. We pray that all those on the Autism Spectrum, especially those in our faith family, might find fulfillment, joy, and love. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Sometimes we feel unworthy to stand in the company of great sufferers for the faith. Remind us that they, like us, were imperfect, yet empowered by your spirit. Gladden our hearts with the power we have through you. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Hear all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and gather them into your loving arms, for the sake of our risen savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

*(Please share a sign of God's love and peace with each other.)*

### **OFFERING/OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, **you have gifted us with skills and abilities of every kind, along with the means to satisfy our material needs. We offer now a portion of these gifts that you would use them for the work of helping your just and holy reign to break through into our suffering world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The LORD be with you.

**And also 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 GOD thanks and praise.**

And so we gather at Christ's table. We come from many places, differing in age, differing in race, differing in orientation, politics and even religion. As we come together around the table, we discover that our differences are indeed a blessing, not just something we tolerate. The more difference we bring, the more fully we experience the presence of the sacred in our midst.

So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life, you are welcome here, here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember with us.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

We remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared, feeding a multitude; stories of being gathered together, enemy and friend, around tables; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

It was on a night of both celebration and betrayal that Jesus took the bread leftover on the table, blessed it and gave it to his disciples, saying Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Later, he took the cup also leftover on the table, poured out and shared, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the renewed covenant I give to you, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Together, we remember that it is in the breaking that we become whole; that in losing our lives we find life; that in serving we are served. Together, we remember the life-giving breath which still pounds a rhythm through our veins: The breath of life from which we come, the breath that precedes and follows all that we can see. As the grapes find life in the vine, when we drink this cup, we become at one with the Source of Life itself.

**And so we pray: Come, holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking, that our eyes might be opened, that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst; indeed, in one another. Come, holy Spirit, come. Amen.**

By eating this bread and drinking this wine we become one in hope...the hope that is ours in the Prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Jesus, who sets prisoners free, also sets a table of grace and mercy before us in the presence of one another. Come and be nourished on his body and blood, that you might be strengthened to carry the good news into the world. This invitation is for you!

## SHARING THE MEAL

This is the body of Christ, broken for you.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

## COMMUNION HYMN | ALL WHO HUNGER, GATHER GLADLY

ELW #461

### 461 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.

You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy, gracious God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love and tasted your nourishing presence. At this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept that life and give you thanks. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that all may know life and love in Jesus' name. Amen.

### CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### EASTER BENEDICTION

Go forth with renewed hope, trusting in the transforming love of God.

**God does not leave things as they are; with God, all things are made new.**

All creation responds to God's presence. The world is alive with possibility.

**We open ourselves to this truth: With Christ, we trust our whole lives to this power.**

**Nothing is beyond the reach of God; neither evil, nor hardship, nor death.**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed.**

SENDING HYMN | HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

ELW #612



# Healer of Our Every Ill

612



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.  
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.  
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.  
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

*Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: Marty Haugen  
Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL  
889 and refrain

## SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.**

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all.

Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

**CLICK LINK TO ACCESS READINGS, SERMONS & SPECIAL EVENTS FROM PAST SUNDAYS:**

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@SHEPHERDOFTHEHILLSLUTHERAN6221/VIDEOS](https://www.youtube.com/@shepherdofthehillslutheran6221/videos)

**WORSHIP RESOURCES:**

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY** — NARRATIVE LECTIONARY WORSHIP RESOURCES COPYRIGHT © 2025 CLERGY STUFF

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** — NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD** — ERIC MILNER WHITE

**LENTEN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** — FATPASTOR.ME

**LENTEN WORDS OF INSTITUTION** — MICHELLETORIGIAN.COM, AS ADAPTED.

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**LENTEN BLESSING & BENEDICTION** — MICHELLETORIGIAN.COM, AS ADAPTED.

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:** CAROLINE MICHALAK

**ALTAR GUILD:** GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

**ASSISTING MINISTER:** TIM KIRCHOFF

**AUDIO TECHNICIAN:** MARK "FUZZ" NEWKIRK

**LECTOR:** CHRIS BLUM

**PASTOR:** REV. JANET KETTERING

**PIANIST:** MARGARET SCHARFF

**SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS: APRIL 26 – MAY 3, 2026**

**Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> - Paul and Silas**

9:30 a.m. - Hybrid In Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion  
Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

**Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 a.m. - Amazing Grace Bible Study

**Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**

7:00 a.m. — Men's Zoom Breakfast Bible Study

5:00 p.m. — Friday Night Perspectives Zoom Gathering

**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>- Paul's Sermon at Athens**

9:30 a.m. — Hybrid In Person/Zoom Worship with Holy Communion  
Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

**APRIL/MAY**

**BIRTHDAYS**

**SHERILYN W. 4/6**

**KAY W. 4/9**

**DOROTHY F. 4/13**

**CINDIE S. 4/27**

**SALLY E. 5/16**

**DONNA S. 5/26**

**TERRY S. 5/27**

# DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS: WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2026

## **Monday, April 27, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-1635-40-paul-and-silas2027>

Acts 16:35-40 Paul and Silas

## **Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-151-11-the-council-at-jerusalem2026>

Acts 15:1-11 The Council at Jerusalem

## **Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-151-11-the-council-at-jerusalem2026-ys8ew2026>

Acts 15:12-21 The Council at Jerusalem Part 2

## **Thursday, April 30, 2026**

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/acts-161-5-timothy-joins-paul-and-silas2026>

Acts 16:1-5 Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

## **Friday, May 1, 2026**

## **Saturday, May 2, 2026**

## **Sunday, May 3, 2026**

Acts 17:16-31 Paul's Sermon at Athens



**WELCOME!** *Thank you for worshiping with us today!*

## **GUESTS**

Please sign our Guestbook and/or fill out the brightly-colored Info Slip and place it in the offering plate. This helps us get to know you better so that we can serve you more effectively.

## **DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED PRAYERS?**

**Prayer Changes Things.** The Shepherd Prayer Chain members stand by ready to help. You'll find our Prayer Box on the table to your left as you enter the building, as well as paper and pencils. Please write your prayer request and place it in the box. *You are not required to sign your request or give the name of the person for whom we will pray, unless you wish.* If you desire a private conversation with Pastor Janet, please contact the Church Office or call her on her cell phone at 507-360-1625. **All prayer requests will remain confidential.**

## **CHILDREN ARE CHERISHED AT SHEPHERD!**

In our Sanctuary, you'll see a coloring table and soft toys. Children's bulletins are available on the table just outside the Sanctuary. If at any time you wish to take your child out for some quiet time, our Nursery/Library is stocked with supplies for playing, coloring, studying the Children's Bulletin, or reading.

## **REMEMBRANCE**

On the north wall of the Sanctuary a table is set with candles. You are invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one at any time before, during, or after our worship service.

## **COMMUNION**

At Shepherd of the Hills, we recognize that the Table of Communion is not our table. It is not a Lutheran table. It is our Lord's Table – a meal prepared for all – prepared in love. *Please come.* All who long for the Good News in Jesus Christ are truly welcome at this table. As Jesus called children to be close to him, we, likewise, extend this invitation to all children. Should you not feel comfortable receiving the Sacrament, please come forward indicating that you wish to receive a blessing by folding your arms over your chest.

## **COMMUNION OUTSIDE OF WORSHIP**

Arrangements can be made to bring communion to you at a time convenient for you. If, for any reason, you are unable to attend normal services, such as a hospital stay or for personal reasons, and wish to have communion brought to you, please contact the Church Office or Pastor Janet at 507-360-1625.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At Shepherd, we worship as one Faith Family. If you wish to extend your worship to include membership, please see Pastor Janet.

# Shepherd of the Hills

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

THE MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE

PASTOR: REV. JANET COLBY KETTERING

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK

ALTAR GUILD: KEN & GERRY MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

ASSISTING MINISTERS: TIM KIRCHOFF & REV. PHIL KETTERING

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

PRAYER CHAIN ADMINISTRATOR: KATHY WOOTTON

SHEPHERD COUNCIL:

MICHELLE KIRCHOFF, PRESIDENT

JANICE IRISH, VICE-PRESIDENT

KELLY MAUER, SECRETARY

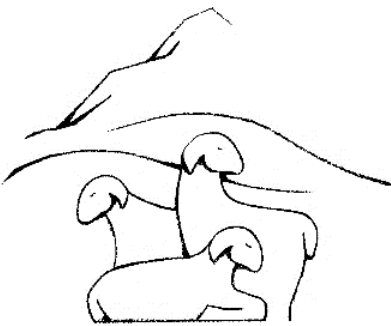
REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER

JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

CINDIE SCOBY & PASTOR JANET KETTERING

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: FUZZ (MARK) NEWKIRK

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT



*Marked by the Cross of Christ Forever, v*  
*+ Gather in Love*  
*+ Grow in Faith*  
*+ Share God's Love & Grace*  
*+ We are Empowered to BOLDLY*  
*Proclaim & Witness God's Word*



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