

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
BRISTOL, CT**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
April 26, 2026 9:30 a.m.**

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.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

ELW 385

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Come, Let Us Join...

ELW p. 204 bottom (vs. 1 & 4)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Reading:

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, Chapter 2.

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Acts 2: 42-47

Anthem

Lead Me Lord by SS Wesley, arr C Young

Voice Choir

Lead me Lord, Lead me in thy righteousness;

Make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, only

That makes me dwell in safety.

Second Reading

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 1st Peter, Chapter 2.

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

1 Peter 2: 19-25

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 205



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel

*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 John, Chapter 10. **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***John 10: 1-10*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (aimed toward Grades K thru 6th, but those younger are welcomed with an accompanying adult).

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW 764

L: APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated)

L: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

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, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...*(time is allowed for additions)*. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Now may we lift up praise and thanksgiving for Restored Health, Life Celebrations and God Sightings for which we are joyful...*(time is allowed for responses)*. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

GIFTS ARE RECEIVED – *In gratitude for all God has given, you are invited to share a portion as the offering plates are passed at this time. Thank You!*

Offerings towards our Ministries are also welcomed by scanning this code with your phone camera.



L: OFFERING PRAYER*Let us pray.***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.****THE GREAT THANKSGIVING****ELW p. 206****Dialogue****ELW p. 206****Preface****Holy, Holy, Holy****ELW p. 207****Eucharistic Prayer****Lord's Prayer****p. 208 right column****COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION****Taste and see that the Lord is good.***At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to fill in along the rail from the center to the sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice) in pre-filled glasses. Empty glasses can be placed in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher.**(if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move to the pew behind the lectern as the altar is cleared after communion distribution)***COMMUNION HYMN****Here Is Bread****ELW 483****L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER***Let us pray.***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+***God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.***BLESSING****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.******REMINDERS***(If you are giving a reminder, come to the pew behind the lectern as the altar is cleared).***SENDING HYMN****Guide My Feet****ACS 987****DISMISSAL****Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!****POSTLUDE**

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, April 26, 2026**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Chris Dion**Music Director:** Helen Glatthaar

Assisting Minister: Terry Gustafson

Lector: Linda Klopp

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Tina Beaudoin, Gerry Beaudoin

Altar Guild: Edie Valencis

Communion Assistants: Keith Clark and Valerie Holcomb

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**Sunday, April 26, 2026**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

11:00 a.m. Bible Nuggets

Monday, April 27, 2026

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

7:00 p.m. Voice Choir – Chapel *No handbell rehearsal

Thursday, April 30, 2026

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Saturday, May 2, 2026

3:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale Concert - Sanctuary

Sunday, May 3, 2026

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT 06010

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org

Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507

Faith In Action...Attendance and Giving for the week of April 19, 2026 Facebook 5...YouTube 15...In Person 72...Total 92...Giving \$2634.20
