

**THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
Mills River, North Carolina

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 26, 2026**

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space



Please observe silence after the Altar candles are lit

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place*

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

*Arr. Sunita Stanislaw*

**PRELUDE** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

*Lloyd Larson*

*A bell rings three times; the people stand.*

*Hymns and service music are found in the blue 1982 Hymnals (H) and the purple Glory to God hymnals (GTG) They are in the racks under the chairs.*

**PRESENTATION OF THE WORD**

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

*H# 334 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing*



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -  
vo - tion voic - ing; glo - ry be to God on high!  
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
lert and liv - ing in your Spi - rit, strong and free.  
Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this Eu - cha -  
by your Blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your Bo - dy,  
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in  
rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.  
ev - ery na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - lowers be.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People** The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

### LEVAS #13 My Lord, What a Morning

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing, My Lord what a morn-ing, O  
my Lord, what a morn - ing, When the stars be - gin to fall.  
3. You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, To wake the na - tions un - der - ground.  
Look - ing to my God's right hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.

To Refrain

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who

believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 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, 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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

***People***            **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. 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. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 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. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have

been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

**SEQUENCE HYMN            *GTG # 410 God is Calling Through the Whisper***

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,  
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.  
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:  
God is calling-can you hear? God is calling-can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,  
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.  
Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:  
God is calling-can you hear? God is calling-can you hear?

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,  
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.  
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:  
God is calling-and we hear! God is calling and we hear!

**GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.

*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[Jesus said,] "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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**THE SERMON**    *The Rev. Tracey Kelly*

### THE 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Brothers and sisters, grace to you and peace from Jesus Christ. The Lord has redeemed us; let us rejoice and be glad, saying, “You are our God; ... and we thank you.”

*Celebrant*    Receive these prayers, O God, and transform us through them, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do so that your realm will come to fruition in glory. **Amen.**

### THE PEACE

*Celebrant*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*                And also with you.

GATHERING

GTG# 413 Come Into God's Presence

Come into God's presence singing "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

Come into God's presence singing "Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord."

Praise the Lord together singing "Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb."

Praise the Lord together singing "Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God."

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

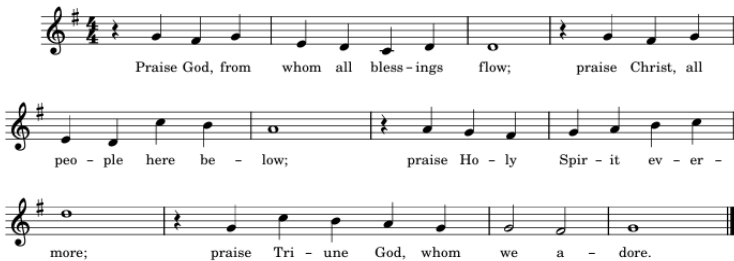
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY

Shepherd of My Heart Arr. John Purifoy

PRESENTATION HYMN

GTG #608 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all  
 peo-ple here be-low; praise Ho-ly Spir-it ev-er -  
 more; praise Tri-une God, whom we a-dore.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was

sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name

## SANCTUS

*S 128 Holy, holy, holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***We remember his death,***

***We proclaim his resurrection,***

***We await his coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

### **FRACTION ANTHEM**

***S 154 Christ our Passover***

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
 Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
 there - fore let us keep the feast.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*(The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)*

### COMMUNION HYMN

GTG # 724 *O Jesus I Have Promised*

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end,  
 be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;  
 I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,  
 nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near;  
 I see the sights that dazzle; the tempting sounds I hear.  
 My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
 but, Jesus, draw thou nearer and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
 above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will;  
 O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
 O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee  
 that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.  
 And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
 O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

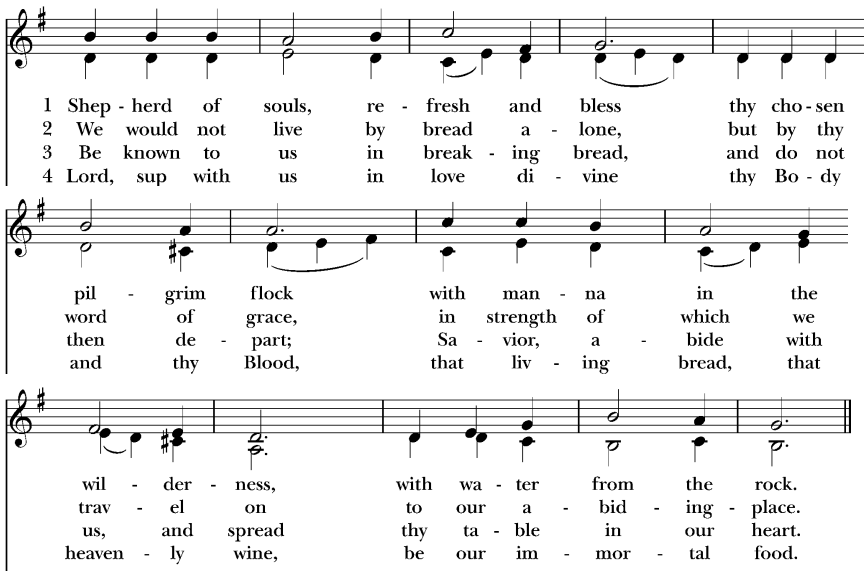
Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## BLESSING

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*H# 343 Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless*



1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen  
2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy  
3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not  
4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the  
word of grace, in strength of which we  
then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with  
and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.  
trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.  
us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.  
heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

## DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Gentle Yoga with Kelly, Fri. 9am, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8, 15, 22, and 29

Choir Practice 9:30 am, Sun. April 26<sup>th</sup>

Mills River Day, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Women's Group, Sat. May 9, 10:00 am

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