

**Minnesota Valley Church**

**Date: Sunday, April 26, 2026**

**Church Year Date: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Prelude: Carol Gustafson

Singers: Osthus.Reynolds

CALL TO WORSHIP: from *Psalm 23*

UNISON READING:

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

3 He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs 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.

Hymn #233 (vss 1&4) "Tell Me the Old, Old Story"

**Confession of Sin: (from Swedish heritage) Holy and righteous God, merciful Father, we confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by**

***thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you above all things, nor our neighbor as ourselves, and are worthy, therefore, to be cast away from Your presence if You should judge us according to our sins. But You have promised, O heavenly Father, to receive with tender mercy all repentant sinners who turn to You and with a living faith seek refuge in Your Fatherly compassion and in the merits of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Our transgressions You will not regard, nor count them against us. Relying upon Your promise, we confidently pray that You would be merciful and gracious to us and forgive us all our sins, to the praise and glory of Your Holy Name. Amen***

Children's Sermon:

Reader: Carol Hoikkala

FIRST LESSON: *Acts 2:42-47* They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

GOSPEL LESSON: *John 10:1-10* "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. 3 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not

*recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them.*

*7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

**READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.**

**CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** Apostles' Creed- *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall 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*

Gloria Patri: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

Announcements

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Chosen by Carol

**SERMON: "UNFAIR TREATMENT"** 1 Peter 2:19-25 Pastor Tom Olson *Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

## **I. GOD'S CALLING**

***1 Peter 2:19-21 For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.***

## **II. CHRIST'S EXAMPLE**

***1 Peter 2:22-23 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.***

## **III. GOD'S SOLUTION**

***1 Peter 2:24-25 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.***

*Now may the peace of God that passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen*

Hymn #568 "Day by Day"

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Song: Chosen by Carol

Postlude: Carol Gustafson