

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service Fourth Sunday of Easter**

April 26, 2026

Pre-Service Music: *This Is My Father's World* John Turner

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *For the Beauty of the Earth* Mark Hayes

Introit #473: *Shepherd Me, O God* Psalm 23 Chancel Choir

Responsive Call to Worship/Prayer of the Day

We have been through much, but the Lord has been with us, and so we find peace and give thanks.

The Lord is our shepherd; we have everything we need.

Through shadow and light, through death and birth, through grief and joy, we have never been alone. We rest in that truth.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Prayer of the Day

God our Shepherd, you are our safe place, our shelter, our ground, our breath. We turn to you in hope and trust, knowing we have come this far by faith, and you will guide us all the way. Mold our daily patterns for your purposes so that we may live as one heart and mind with you and our neighbors, rejoicing together and praising your holy name, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Opening Hymn #410: *God is Calling Through the Whisper* (stand)

Call to Confession

Christ is the good shepherd, who leads us to safety and peace no matter what we have done.

**Christ's voice calls us to repent and return;
let us heed that voice and go to God in prayer.**

Prayer of Confession

God of community, you call us to a world radically different from what we are used to. You ask us to lay aside our ideas of "mine" and "yours." You show us a life where goods are shared, where all are loved, and faithfulness is shown through generosity. But we cling to our possessions, trusting them more than we trust you. Forgive us, merciful God. Help us to truly believe in your just and peaceful realm and to work to make it so. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.

For we were going astray like sheep, but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. Thanks be to God!

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #583: *Glory to God* English, then Latin

Anthem: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Antony Baldwin

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Merciful God. **Receive our 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Hymn #187: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

First Lesson: Acts 2:42 - 47

Psalm: Psalm 23

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved.

Thanks be to God. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

Sermon: *Another Look at Psalm 23* Susan Murray

All authority and power and dominion to the name that is above all names—Jesus Christ our Lord—now and in the age to come. **Amen.**
Ephesians 1:21

Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.22*

New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offering #717: *For the Life That You Have Given*

Prayer of Dedication:

Great God, to you we give our thanks; your steadfast love endures forever. With gratitude we bring our gifts to you. Bless us and our gifts, that our lives and our resources may be a source of healing and hope, of joy and justice in our world. Amen.

Sending Hymn #232: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* (stand)

Charge and Benediction: (remain standing)

May the love of the holy triune God—
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
abide with you forever.

Alleluia!

1 John 4:13–16

Now go forth in Jesus' name,
remembering his new commandment
to love one another, just as he has loved us.

Amen.

1 John 3:23

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord!**

Postlude: *Praise Him! Praise Him!* Cindy Berry

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