

Holy Communion

4th Sunday of Easter

April 26th, 2026



Grac⁺e
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Greeting

Hallelujah! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

HYMN How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

Words: John Newton; Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds / in a believer's ear!
it soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds / and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole, / and calms the troubled breast;
it satisfies the hungry soul, / and gives the weary rest.

Dear name, the rock on which I build, / my shield and hiding-place;
my never-failing treasury filled / with boundless stores of grace!

Jesus my shepherd, brother, friend, / my prophet, priest and king;
my Lord, my life, my way, my end - accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart, / and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you as you are, / I'll praise you as I ought.

Till then I would your love proclaim / with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of your name / refresh my soul in death.

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: 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.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief. We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. In your mercy forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

SONG **Witter dan sneeuw (Psalm 51)** Words & Music: Psalm Project

Was mij witter dan sneeuw,
was mij schoon van mijn schuld.
Zie mijn offer, Heer: mijn berouw.
Wees genadig, o God, heb met mij toch geduld.
Wees barmhartig, ik pleit op Uw trouw.

Chorus: Laat mij weer juichen, weer dansen in 't licht.
Laat mij weer leven voor Uw aangezicht.
Was mij witter dan sneeuw, laat mij rein voor U staan.
Zie niet om naar wat ik heb gedaan.

Was mij witter dan sneeuw, maak mij sterk door Uw Geest.
Scheep een zuiver hart diep in mij.
Laat mij dicht bij U zijn, U alleen, Heer, geneest.
Van mijn zonde en schuld, spreek mij vrij. *Chorus*

Bridge Laat mij weer juichen. Laat mij weer dansen. Laat mij weer leven.
Laat mij weer juichen, weer dansen, weer leven.

Was mij witter dan sneeuw, laat mij rein voor U staan.
Zie niet om naar wat ik heb gedaan.

Absolution May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from
your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria Words and Music: Donna Adkins & Colin Mawby

Father, we love You / We worship and adore You
Glorify Your name in all the earth /
Glorify Your name / Glorify Your name
Glorify Your name in all the earth
Jesus, we love You ... Spirit, we love You ...

Collect Prayer (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and
the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the
life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are
above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

NEW TESTAMENT Acts 2:42-47 (NIV) *The fellowship of the believers*

2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who 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 favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN The Lord's my Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Words: Scottish Psalter, Music: JS Irvine

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want,
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

GOSPEL John 10:1-10 (NIV)

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:

Glory to you, O Lord.

10:¹ 'Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice.' ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷Therefore Jesus said again, 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who 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.

Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

And at the end

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Hallelujah! *John 20.19,20*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

and also with you.

Preparation of the Table

SONG The Lord's my Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Words: Psalter, adapted; Music: Stuart Townend

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

Chorus And I will trust in You alone, / And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy, / I feast on His pure delights.
Chorus

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know. *Chorus*

Taking of the Bread and Wine

(Prayer H)

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away
you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took
bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them,
saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks,
and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new
covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us
the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all
share in one bread.**

Communion is shared, and music may be played.

After the post communion prayer.

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the
body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him
we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living
sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live
and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

NOTICES

HYMN God be with you till we meet again

Words: J Rankin, Music: R Vaughan Williams

God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
'neath his wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put his arms unfailing round you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will;
and the blessing and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.



**Morning worship: 2nd Sundays, Morning Prayer/Service of the Word at 10:30 am;
4th Sundays (Holy Communion) at 10:30 am,**
all at **St Maarten-langs-de-weg** (Oud Katholieke Kerk), Witte de Withstraat, 2, Groningen.

Web-site: <http://gracechurchgroningen.com/>; Facebook (Grace Church Groningen).
Chaplain: the Ven Sam Van Leer, Mon-Wed-Fri, chaplaingracechurchgn@gmail.com or 050 785 0703.

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Kramer; gracesafeguarding@gmail.com
Safeguarding in Grace Church: <https://gracechurchgroningen.com/caring/safeguarding/>
Diocese: <https://www.europe.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding-diocese-europe>

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Our worship services and ministry in Groningen are made possible by people voluntarily offering their time, talents and financial support. As God has blessed us, so we thank Him by giving accordingly. To help support Grace Church, there is an opportunity to put an offering in the collection basket during the service or near the exit afterwards.

It is also possible to donate by electronic transfer to
Grace Church (Groningen Anglican Church),
account: NL 67 RABO 03012946 23. Or with this QR code:



Grace Church Forthcoming Services & Activities:

- **Sunday 10 May, 10:30**: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.
- **Sunday 24 May, 10:30**: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- **Sunday 14 June, 10:30**: Grace Service of the Word, Old Catholic Church.
- **Sunday 28 June, 10:30**: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.

Movie Nights (at 19:30 at SKLO Bldg, Kraneweg 33, Groningen):

May 8th: Music Box.

For info on Home Groups, Bible Study gatherings & other events, please do ask us!