

**Stewardship 2025
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow**

Psalm 46:7 "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold."

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025
9:15 AM Worship Express**

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz
Lector: Ben Foltz
Acolytes: Beckett Horswill & Ben Foltz
Ushers: Justin & Dana Melby
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Life abundant and overflowing in this lifetime and life everlasting are the gifts of the Risen Christ. It was true in the first century. It is true today. It is true for all the baptized. As the 23rd Psalm tells us, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

CALL TO WORSHIP: : "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Words to meditate upon...

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.**

WELCOMING WORDS OF EASTER

P: Come, join the journey of Jesus today!

C: We come – in our different ways, walking in our own styles, at our own speeds. But we come to join the journey.

P: Come, walk with the God of new beginnings, a God who discovers strength in weakness, who loves in the face of indifference, who brings life into the midst of death. For Christ has died, Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

C: Hallelujah! We come to join the journey of Jesus Today!

LITANY FOR EASTER

P: At Easter, we celebrate the newness and wholeness God brings into the world's decay and brokenness.

C: We celebrate a love that expects nothing in return and shows us what Jesus meant when he said, "Love one another as I have loved you."

P: We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus that never denies the crucifixion; we celebrate the Living Christ who comes with wounds displayed to touch us with love.

C: We celebrate the people whose presence disturbs and inconveniences us, revealing to us the hardness of our hearts and creating opportunities for sharing and hospitality.

P: We celebrate the Crucified Lord who delights in his victory and invites us to be transformed by faith that sees the less-than-obvious.

C: We celebrate who we are as people restored, renewed and revealed by the truth of God's love in the crucified and risen Savior. Hallelujah!

Stand

GATHERING SONG: "Jesus in the Morning"

Vs. 1: Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning,
Jesus in the noontime, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
when the sun goes down.

Vs. 2: Love him, love him, love him in the morning.
Love him in the noontime, love him, love him, love him
when the sun goes down.

Vs. 3: Serve him, serve him, serve him in the morning,
Serve him in the noontime, Serve him, serve him, serve him
when the sun goes down.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

All: Dear Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd and we are your sheep. Help us to trust that you indeed watch over and care for us each and every day of our lives. Lead us and we will follow where you go. May we do your will each and every day. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Stand

GOSPEL SONG: "For God So Loved the World"

For God so loved the world
He gave his only Son
To die on Calv'ry's tree,
From sin to set me free;
Some day He's coming back
What glory that will be!
Wonderful His love to me.

Lector: The Good News according to John the 10th Chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOOD NEWS READING: John 10: 22-30

Lector: They were celebrating Hanukkah just then in Jerusalem. It was winter.

Jesus was strolling in the Temple across Solomon's Porch. The Jews, circling him, said,

Jews (Men and Boys): How long are you going to keep us guessing? If you're the Messiah, tell us straight out.

Lector: Jesus answered,

Jesus (All): I told you, but you don't believe. Everything I have done has been authorized by my Father, actions that speak louder than words. You don't believe because you're not my sheep. My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good. No one can steal them from out of my hand. The Father who put them under my care is so much greater than the Destroyer and Thief. No one could ever get them away from him. I and the Father are one heart and mind.

Lector: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sit

CHILDREN'S WORD/THE WORD

Stand

SONG OF THE WORD: "The Lord's My Shepherd" #778 ELW

Vs. 1: 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.
He leader me, he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.**

**Vs. 2: 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;
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own namesake.**

**Vs. 3: Yes, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou are with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still;
for thou art with me, and they rod
and staff me comfort still.**

**Vs. 4: My table thou hast richly spread
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.
My head thou dost with oil anoint
and my cup overflows.**

**Vs. 5: Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house forevermore**

**my dwelling place shall be;
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be;**

APOSTLES CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus, God's Son?

All: 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.

P: Do you believe in God's Holy Spirit?

All: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In between petitions the congregation will sing a verse of "Seek Ye First"

P: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church,
the world, and all who are in need.

A Brief Silence

P: Living Lord, make your church a place people want to be. Make it a welcoming
place for all looking for hope and healing. **Hear us, O God.**

**C: Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things will be given unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

P: Living Lord, as spring comes and life around us springs up around us, renew our commitment to this earth we call home. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. **Hear us, O God.**

**C: Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things will be given unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

P: Living Lord, This Mothers' Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Help those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. **Hear us, O God.**

**C: Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things will be given unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

P: We send these and all our prayers to you, O Living Lord, trusting that you are always with us: in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

GOD'S PEOPLE SHARE THE PEACE

P: The Spirit of the Risen Jesus be with you all.

All: And also with you.

OFFERING SONG: "Lord, be Glorified"

**Vs 1: In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be gloried today.**

**Vs. 2: In my song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In my song, Lord, be glorified today.**

**Vs. 3: In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.**

THE LORD'S 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 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: