

**Fourth Sunday of**

**EASTER**



**May 3, 2020**

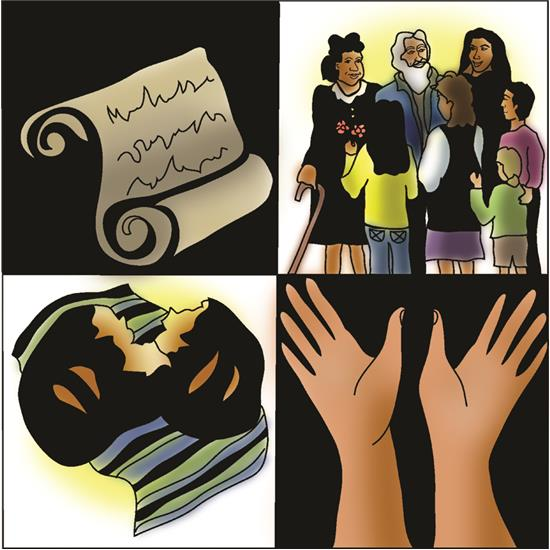
THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

**Prelude** ***Brother James Air***

James Leith Macbeth Bain

**Welcome**

**Hymn**  **Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee** (sing two verses)



WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

**First Reading Acts 2.42-47** (The Message, alt.)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

[The day the Holy Spirit came upon those gathered in Jerusalem] about three thousand were baptized and joined the Way. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person’s need was met.

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

Word of God, Word of Life **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23**



The Lord | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

**The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures**

**and leads me be- | side still waters.**

You restore my | soul, O Lord,

and guide me along right pathways | for your name’s sake.

**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.**

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

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

**Gospel John 10.1-10** (The Message)

The Holy Gospel according St. John **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus continued his words to the Pharisees:] “Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he’s up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won’t follow a stranger’s voice but will scatter because they aren’t used to the sound of it.”

Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. “I’ll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep stealers, every one of them. But the sheep didn’t listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ.**

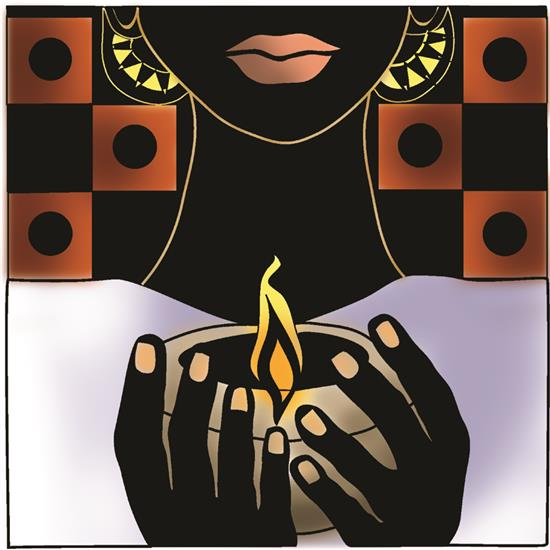
**Message**  ***Wow! What a Ride!***



**Ministry of Music**

***Take It To the Lord In Prayer*** John Helgen

Choir



What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry ev’rything to God in prayer.

Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry ev’rything to God in prayer.

Take it to the lord, take it to the Lord, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Take it to the Lord, yes, take it to the Lord, take it to the Lord in prayer,

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In his arms he’ll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Take it to the lord, take it to the Lord, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Take it to the Lord, yes, take it to the Lord, take it to the Lord in prayer,

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows bear?

Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Take it to the lord, take it to the Lord, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Take it to the Lord, take it to the Lord, to the Lord in prayer,

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

**Apostles Creed**

Let us confess our faith in the Triune God as expressed in these historic words:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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.**

**Community Prayers**

Let us pray.... **Amen.**

Included in our daily prayers are those with special needs or concerns:

Bebe McCoy, Robin Stokes, Lea Spang, recovering from surgery, Bonnie Hegreness, Heidi Carman, Cora Marquez, Mary Kennedy, Kelly Scott, Diane Louangrath, Sue Baker, Julie Denniss’ uncle Ed Stewart, Kevin Bailey’s sister Kleta Childs, Kathie and Nancy Ehrich, Stan Heacock, Jeremy Davis, Amy DeLorenzo, Linda and Don Williams, Pamela Andrews, Val Farnham, Bebe McCoy’s brother-in-law Walt, Brittany Parsons, Lynn Belhorn’s mother Maryland Belhorn and friend MaryAnn, Laura Warren’s brother Walter Hudson, Bill Boys, Doretha Holland, Madelyn Zimmer’s daughter DJ, Dolores Brannigan’s husband Dave, Shirley and Jack Miller, family of Mendel McFadden who are friends of Barbara Connors.

**Sharing the peace**

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

We take time to greet one another with words like Peace be with you.

WE SHARE HOLY COMMUNION

**Great Thanksgiving**



We stand in the resurrection garden of God – a place filled and shaped by love and ripe with all it might become when we are open to the Spirit’s life and ours become one. This is the table of the risen Jesus – a place fashioned and furnished by love and rich with its promises. So come – whether you have seen and believed, or are dubious and doubting still, whether you confess confidently, or come to this meal with a fragile, fearful heart. Come and share these gifts of grace, encounter Christ, and be healed by Love and transformed by Life.

We remember with wonder and joy that Love, though broken on a cross, was not defeated. We rejoice that Love, though swallowed by death, was not silenced. Neither defeated nor silenced, Love lives and speaks words of welcome, healing and hope to all. In awe of all you have done and all you are doing through us, we join our voices with that of Creation and with all those who bear witness across the world and throughout the ages to the eternal power of your Love and Life:



Before the bright dawn in the garden – in which Love was resurrected, before the cold silence of the tomb – by which Love was swallowed, before the black horror of the cross – on which Love was broken, before the bitter struggle of the Gethsemane garden – through which Love affirmed its choices, Jesus ate a final supper with his friends.

He took bread, blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take this, and eat! This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me.” After supper, he took a cup of wine and gave it to them, saying, “This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. It is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. As often as you drink this, do so to remember me.”

And so we pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

**Lord’s Prayer**

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

Recalling that meal and honoring that life, eating this bread and drinking this cup, we thank you, God, for making us part of the ongoing story of your Love and Life. Now, we pray, send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine, that we may once again encounter Christ’s Love and be transformed by Christ’s Life.

**Sharing the Meal**

A picture containing bird

Description automatically generated

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give you thanks, Holy God, that in this meal, Jesus Christ , Love resurrected, has met us once again in this garden and touched and transformed us with Life. May the peace of the Resurrected One – the challenging peace of committed life, the liberating peace of selfless love, the vibrant peace of new possibility – recall us to radical living, empower us for rich loving, and transform us with radiant joy. Alleluia! **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT

**Hymn** **Will You Come and Follow Me** (sing two verses)



**Blessing Amen.**

**Postlude**  ***Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee***

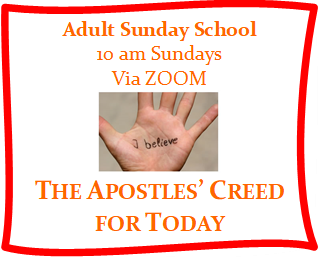
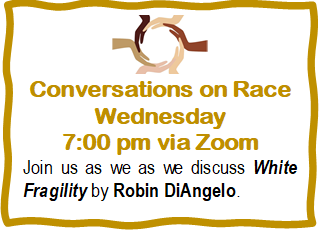
Henry van Dyke, Ludwig van Beethoven

**Our first act of love is to greet those standing near us and around us.**

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**OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

**Presiding Minister** David Shull, Pastor

**Assisting Minister** Julianne Johnson

**ASL Interpreter** Tori Reed

**Reader** Chad Eberle

**Cantor** Heidi Sherer

**Organist & Senior Choir Director** Kathy Rapp

**Pianist & Chimes Choir Director** Karen Kent

**Producer** Michele Disbro

*Flowers are dedicated by* ***Laura and Terry Warren***

*in memory of their* ***mothers and fathers****.*

*Noisy Offering will go to Kaleidoscope Youth Center.*

**THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER MAY 3 - 10**

**Today** YouTube Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Zoom Adult Sunday School

—***Apostles’ Creed***

**Tuesday** 1:00 pm Zoom Bible Study

**Wednesday** 7:00 pm Zoom Conversations about Race

**Next Sunday** YouTube Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Zoom Adult Sunday School

