

## Order of Service–April 27, 2025

### Welcome & Announcements

**Greeting** \*please rise as you are able and comfortable and welcome one another into worship\*

**Invocation** \*please remain standing\*

**“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”**

**“Victory in Jesus”** \*please be seated\*

### Reading From Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, [5] and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood [6] and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. [7] Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

[8] "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

### Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another....

**Congregation: Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of <sup>†</sup> Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Congregation: **Amen**

**“Jesus Does”** \*please rise as you are comfortable and able\*

### Nicene Creed

Congregation: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Holy Communion** \*please be seated until it is time for you to come forward, rows come forward front to back, left to right\*

***Please read the explanation of our Communion practice below.***

***COMMUNION is a time for us to come in union to receive Jesus' body and blood. On the night before Jesus died on the cross, He shared a "last supper" with His disciples. The experience that happened so many years ago compels us to this day to celebrate the "Lord's Supper" (or Holy Communion as it is called). Jesus invited us to share this gift until He returns so that we may have forgiveness of sins, strengthening of faith and the power to live God-pleasing lives. God's word tells us that when we receive the Lord's Supper we are not merely receiving bread and wine, but the true, real body and blood of Jesus Christ. We claim the promise of Christ's real presence as we hear him say "This is my body...this is my blood." Baptized adult Christians who know they need God's daily forgiveness, who are sorry for their sins, who seek God's forgiveness, and who believe the body and blood of Jesus Christ are truly present in this meal are invited to share this great gift of God.***

***We encourage those who are unsure of their beliefs or who don't yet agree with our beliefs to use the time of communion to reflect, pray, and sing. We encourage those who are in agreement with us in our beliefs to receive the body and blood of Jesus, given and shed for our forgiveness. Those that wish non-alcoholic wine for communion will find those cups located in the center trays. Those who would like gluten-free wafers can take them from the bowl containing the wafers.***

***"Revelation Song"***

***"I Am Not Alone"***

***"The Power of Your Love"***

***Reading from John 20:24-29*** \*please be seated\*

Context: Like many of us, for Thomas, seeing is believing, and yet to be truly blessed is to believe by faith, not by sight. Especially in this age of visual manipulation, is what we see a reliable source of faith. Faith is a gift of God. Our human faculties cannot compare to the gift of the Holy Spirit working faith in our lives

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. [25] So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I

see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

[26] Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." [27] Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." [28] Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" [29] Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### **Children's Message & Offering**

#### **Message: "Is Seeing Really Believing"**

#### **Responsive Prayer and Reflection** \*please rise as you are comfortable and able\*

(Pastor Speaks the light print, the congregation responds with the dark print)

P: O Father in Heaven

**C: The disciples were all eyewitnesses to the resurrection.**

P: And yet only at the coming of the Holy Spirit did they truly "see" with eyes

**C: opened by faith**

P: We believe,

**C: help our unbelief. Amen**

### **Blessing**

#### ***"Jesus Shall Reign"***

#### **Go in Peace + Serve the Lord**