



## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Sunday, May 11, 2025

9:30 am

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ☺ the One  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,  
and called to live the baptized life,  
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.*

Holy God,  
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
 waters that open the hearts of believers  
 and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
 waters that set your people on a new path,  
 rejoicing in the Spirit's power.  
 Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,  
 that our every day is shaped by these waters  
 that give us our very lives in you.  
 We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.  
**Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN: *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia***

vs. 1-3

M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,  
 1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.  
 2 For three long days the grave did its worst  
 3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.

m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.  
 Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.  
 un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.  
 You look for Je - sus who is not here.

A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,  
 For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,  
 He who gives life did death un - der - go,  
 See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.

m - si - fu - ni sa - sa yu ha - i.  
 e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.  
 and in its con - quest his might did show.  
 On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."

*Refrain*

*Tu - mwi - mbi - e so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.*  
Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

*Ye - su - a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.*  
Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

*Ka - shi - nda - ki - fo, ha - le - lu - ya;*  
Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

*ha - le - lu - ya, Ye - su - yu - ha - i.*  
Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est;  
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we  
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Glory to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est;  
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us; you are seat-ed at the  
right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

◉ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.  
  
 I II For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
 Spir- it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther, A - men.  
  
 ◉ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,  
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence.*

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song.*

Let us listen for the Word of the Lord.  
**Our ears and our hearts are open.**

### **FIRST LESSON: Acts 9:36-43**

A reading from Acts.

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” <sup>39</sup> So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for reflection*

## PSALM: Psalm 23

*Read responsively*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

*Silence for reflection*

## SECOND LESSON: Revelation 7:9-17

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup> I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat,  
<sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for reflection*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

*The assembly stands as worshipers are comfortable.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### **GOSPEL: John 10:22-30**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup> At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." <sup>25</sup> Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, <sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and

they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## YOUTH TIME

## SERMON

*The assembly stands as worshipers are comfortable.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing***



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!  
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -  
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,  
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.  
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - lwers be.

## CREED

With the Church throughout the world, we confess our faith:

**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 of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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 worshiped 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**

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.*

You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care especially those who we name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts (*pause*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to 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.

**Your mercy is great.**

You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*We share a sign of the peace of Christ with others.*

*The assembly is seated after sharing the peace.*

### OFFERING

*Your offering continues to support the mission and ministry of Abiding Presence. The offering plate will be passed down each pew to receive today's offering. Arrangements can also be made for electronic giving through the church office or through your financial institution. We are grateful for your generosity.*

### OFFERTORY

*Adult Choir*

*The assembly stands as worshipers are comfortable.*

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

*A brief silence.*

**Risen One,**

**you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.**

**Come among us again,**

**breathe your life into us,**

**and enliven us with this meal,**

**that we may live as your risen body in the world.**

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho- san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, living, and loving God,  
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,  
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,  
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus  
who, living among us,  
healed the sick,  
fed the hungry,  
and with a love stronger than death,  
gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,  
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:  
carry us in your arms from death to life,  
that we may live as your chosen ones,  
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Please use the version of the Lord's Prayer that is most prayerful for you, including languages other than English.*

**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**

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

*The assembly is seated.*

For those communing on our livestream, receive this gift. (*lifts the bread plate*) "The body of Christ, given for you." (*lifts the wine chalice*) "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

## DISTRIBUTION

*Communion is distributed by procession. You are invited to walk up the center aisle to receive the bread from the Pastor, who will give it to you as the words 'the Body of Christ given for you' are spoken. Gluten free wafers are available. Move to the communion assistant and receive either a cup of wine (in the outer rings of the tray) or a cup of grape juice (the inner ring.) Choose a cup as the words, 'the Blood of Christ shed for you' are spoken. Place your empty glass in the bowl provided. If you wish to remain at the altar to pray you may do so by stepping to the side outside the distribution area. Return to your pew by the side aisle. Those not receiving the sacrament may come forward for a blessing.*

**COMMUNION HYMN: *I Received the Living God***

*Refrain*

I re - ceived the liv-ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

I re - ceived the liv-ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

1 Je-sus said: I am the bread, knead-ed long to give you life;  
2 Je-sus said: I am the way, and my Fa-ther longs for you;  
3 Je-sus said: I am the truth; come and fol-low close to me.  
4 Je-sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

*Refrain*

you who will par-take of me need not ev-er fear to die.  
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.  
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.  
but re - ceive this liv-ing bread, and my Spir-it you shall know.

*The assembly stands.*

**BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us give thanks for this meal.

*A brief silence.*

Living One,  
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
sing of your glory,  
and proclaim your risen life  
to a wounded and weary world.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission into the world.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The assembly stands as worshipers are comfortable.*

## **BLESSING**

The triune God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign,  $\pm$  Savior, and Spirit,  
light your way with resurrection dawn,  
now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:**

***Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia***

**vs. 4-5**

4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave.  
He has arisen this world to save.  
Jesus' redeeming labors are done.  
Even the battle with sin is won." *Refrain*

5 Christ has arisen to set us free.  
Alleluia, to him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. *Refrain*

The musical score consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of the hymn, the second staff contains the third line, the third staff contains the fourth line, and the fourth staff contains the fifth line. The music is in common time.

**Staff 1:**

M - fu - ra - hi - ni, ha - le - lu - ya,  
1 Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.  
2 For three long days the grave did its worst  
3 The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.

**Staff 2:**

m - ko - mbo - zi a - me - fu - fu - ka.  
Re - joice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.  
un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.  
You look for Je - sus who is not here.

**Staff 3:**

A - me - fu - fu - ka, ha - le - lu - ya,  
For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,  
He who gives life did death un - der - go,  
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.

**Staff 4:**

m - si - fu - ni sa - sa yu ha - i.  
e - ven from death, dis - sa pel - ling its gloom.  
and in its con - quest his might did show.  
On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."

*Refrain*

Tu - mwi - mbi - e praise so - te kwa fu - ra - ha.  
 Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.

Ye - su a - me - to - ka ka - bu - ri - ni.  
 Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.

Ka - shi - nda - ki fo, ha - le - lu - ya;  
 Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

ha - le - lu - ya, Ye - su yu - ha - i.  
 Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

## DISMISSAL

**Open hearts, open minds, called to serve God's world in challenging times.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

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**Flowers at the altar this Sunday are donated by:  
Curt and Angie Lommen  
In honor of Curt & Angie's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Happy Anniversary!**

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#### **Purpose Statement**

Open hearts, open minds, called to serve God's world in challenging times.

#### **Statement of Welcome**

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church is a Christian community of faith, worship and service grounded in the use of word and sacrament and we welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.

We welcome all because God welcomes all regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.

Our unity is in Christ.

