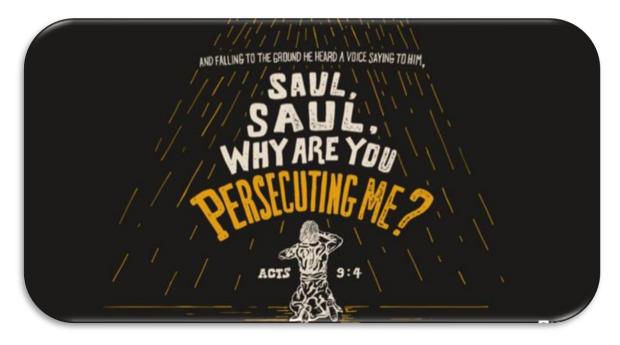
+DIVINE SERVICE IV+ OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST +THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER + 04 MAY 2025+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod 902 S. Maple Inglewood, CA 90301-3824 <u>tgslcms.org</u>

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

"A Church where God gives and we receive."

The Rev. Edward Killian, Pastor (mobile) 424.293.6588

Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644

Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director

Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman

Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

<u>Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church</u>! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

Communion Policy

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and welcome to The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!

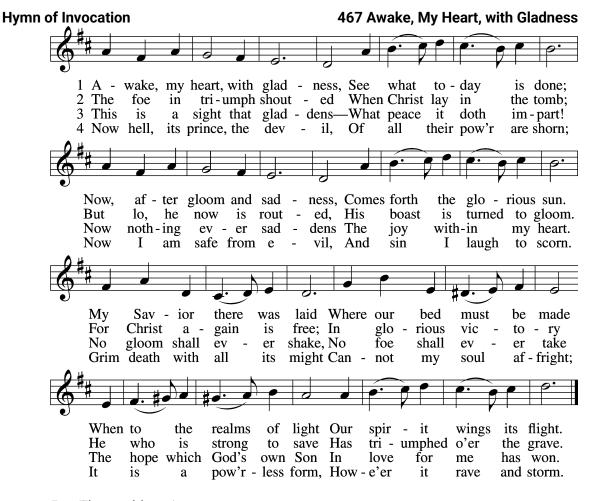
To Those Intending To Commune This Morning:

We respectfully request that those visiting this morning would speak to Pastor Killian before coming to the altar for Holy Communion. While we desire that all who believe would join us in this feast of forgiveness, we are mindful of what God has spoken to us in His word regarding receiving this precious meal:

"Whoever therefore eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself." (I Corinthians 11:27-29)

In light of this scripture and others, we take admittance to the Lord's Supper most seriously. It is God's desire that you approach His table with a prepared heart and mind, and our desire that you join us. Please speak to Pastor Killian that we may maintain good order and a God pleasing approach to His most precious gift of mercy! Thank you.

Confession and Absolution



5 The world against me rages, Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages, Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free, No trouble troubles me.
Misfortune now is play, And night is bright as day.

- Now I will cling forever To Christ, my Savior true; My Lord will leave me never, Whate'er He passes through. He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain; He shatters hell's grim thrall; I follow Him through all.
- 7 He brings me to the portal That leads to bliss untold, Whereon this rhyme immortal Is found in script of gold:
 "Who there My cross has shared Finds here a crown prepared; Who there with Me has died Shall here be glorified."

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **G** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- Image P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Stand

Introit

Service of the Word

Psalm 145:4-7, 9; antiphon: v. 10

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,*
and all your saints shall bless you!
One generation shall commend your works to an- other,*
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,*
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,*
and I will declare your greatness.
They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness*
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
The LORD is good to all,*
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the be- ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,*
and all your saints shall bless you!

5



Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 9:1-22

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Joy Comes in the Morning

¹I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

²O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

³O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

⁴Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

 ⁵For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
 Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

⁶As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

⁷By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face;

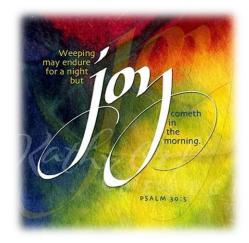
I was dismayed.

⁸To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

⁹"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me!
O LORD, be my helper!"

¹¹You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

¹²that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!



Psalm 30

Epistle

⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,

for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

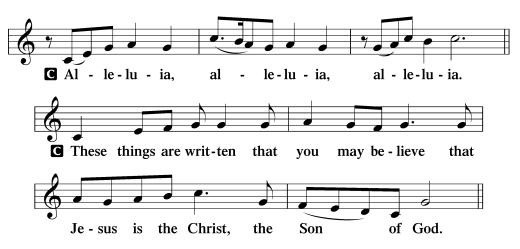
¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse





Holy Gospel

John 21:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

¹After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **G** Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
 the Eather Almighty

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.





Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "hear our prayer".

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Worthy are You, O Lord, to receive the praise and thanksgiving of Your people. For You have sent Your Son as the Lamb to ransom us by His blood and make us a kingdom of priests in Your service. Bless Your Church, that all we endeavor to do in Your name may be in accord with Your will. Accomplish Your holy purpose in calling many joyfully to know Your redemption. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

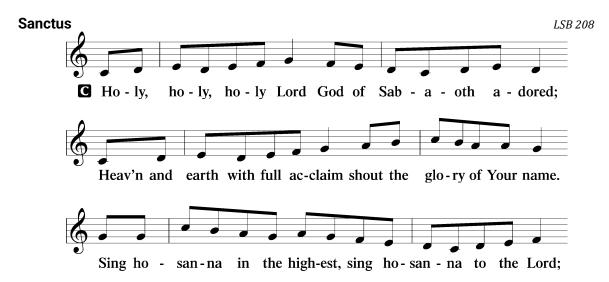
- ₽ Ever-living God, You raised up Saul from among Your enemies, that he would suffer for Your name. Stir up all those baptized into Your name, and call many men to the service of Your Church. Sustain all [including all missionaries] who suffer for the Gospel, and continue to confound its enemies with Your wisdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- Lord of all nations, You provided a miraculous catch of fish to the apostles and, much more, blessed their efforts as fishers of men. Continue to bless the Church as she spreads the Gospel and gathers in as many as would be saved. Lord, in Your mercy,
- Heavenly Father, one generation of Your saints commends Your works to another. As we have received Your glorious Gospel, grant all fathers and mothers strong and joyful faith to declare Your mighty acts to the generation to come. Lord, in Your mercy,
- Lord enthroned in heaven, You have ordered all the nations of the earth and have set Your Church among them to shepherd them unto eternal life. Hear the prayers we continually offer for our rulers, and grant them faithful and peaceful governance. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ▶ Lord of life, You are glorified in the sufferings of Your faithful people. Teach us to trust You through all our trials and graciously bear up those who struggle among us, especially Alice, Allison, Annie, Betty, Bev, Bill, Diane, Eric, Jason, Johnathan, Lynette, Margie, Marion and her family, Mary, Nancy, Ron, and Timothy, that they would know the fullness of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- Merciful God, You gave Your Son to be the Lamb. He has given us His own flesh to be our food and His very blood to be our drink. Give us Your Holy Spirit so that we who approach His table may receive His gifts with repentant hearts and faith, that what we receive with our lips we may keep in holy hearts and show forth in holy lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
- ▶ Lord, You are holy, and You sanctify us in Christ. Give us strength during temptation, courage in times of fear, comfort in distress and resolve in the face of persecution. Help us to abound in hope in every circumstance; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **G** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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 r from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

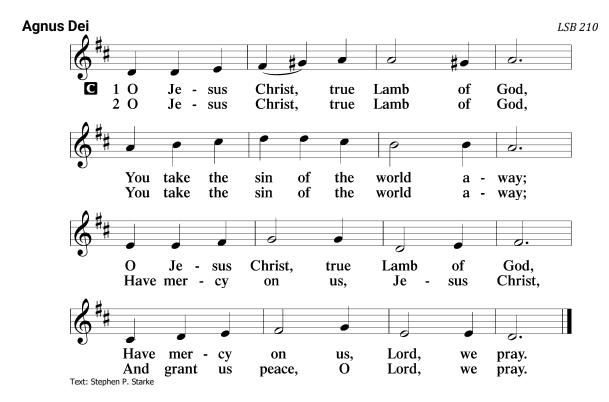
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



Sit

Distribution





- 5 The gifts are in the feast, Gifts far more than we see; Beneath the bread and wine Is food from Calvary. The body and the blood Remove our ev'ry sin; We leave His presence in His peace, renewed again.
- 6 All glory to the One Who lavishes such love; The triune God in love Assures our life above.

His means of grace for us Are gifts He loves to give; All thanks and praise for His Great love by which we live!

Text: Richard C. Resch, 1947 Tune: Charles J. Dale, 1842–1912, alt. Text: © 2001 Richard C. Resch. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401 Tune: Public domain



599 O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near



- 5 O Father, grant that by Your grace They may Your will each day embrace; With fruits of faith their lives now bless, Till they at death Your name confess.
- 6 Then robed in white before Your throne, Your holy saints, by You foreknown— Predestined, called, and justified, Shall, crowned in light, be glorified.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Vernon Griffiths, 1894–1985

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Nunc Dimittis LSB 211 0 **C** 1 0 Lord, Your now let vant ser De 2 All glo the ther, All to Fa ry ð part in heav'n - lv For the peace. Ι have seen All glo - ry glo - rv to the Son. to the 0 glo Spir deem - ing Of grace: Your ry re iť. For ev er Three in One: -light lead the Gen tiles Un Α to For in the be gin ning, Is as hill, ho - ly Your The glo of Your to ry God's tri now. shall ev - er be. une name re Your cho Is el. peo ple, sen ra Through all sound - ing ter ni е ty. -

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Amen.

Benedicamus

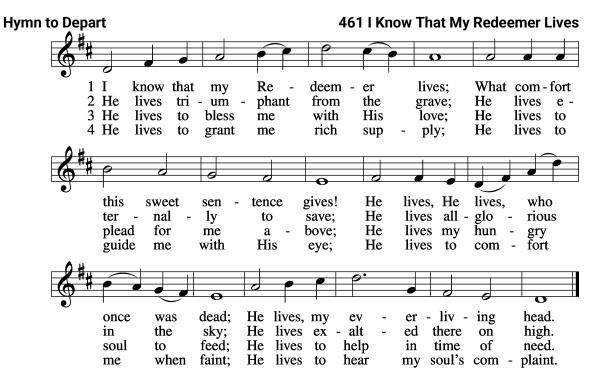
P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ++ give you peace.

C Amen.



- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

- He lives and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793 Text and tune: Public domain

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

Paul Soulek (b. 1985)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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A Note From The Organist:

Charles Ore is noted for his exploration of rhythm in his music. His setting of "With High Delight" is a prime example. The left hand plays a moving accompaniment on the Regal, a thin-toned reed stop, while the right hand plays a countermelody on flutes. Meanwhile, the pedal plays the melody on four-foot principals, which sound one octave higher than written. In addition to the rhythmic energy, he has three contrasting colors working together.

Paul Soulek's setting of the most important Caster hymns is played throughout on the full organ, with the melody mostly in the pedal, while the hands play powerful fanfare passages. For dramatic emphasis, the 32' Contre Bombarde is added on the final phrase.



🕂 THIS WEEK'S NOTES 🕂

Announcements

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 20

+ Altar Guild Set Up: May 4th Jill May 11th Marie Cleanup for May: Marie and Susie

+ Ushers for May: Ed Griffin and Mark Thorn

+ Today is Mite Sunday!

+ Thank you to everyone who dedicated an Easter Lily! You are welcome to take your lilies home today or leave them up for another week!

+ Sunday, May 4th Evangelism Meeting – If anyone from the Congregation is interested in being a part of the Evangelism Team, please join us after service today as we kick off the new chapter of Evangelism at the Good Shepherd.

+ Meet virtually next Wednesday, May 14th at 7pm for Midweek Evening Bible Study on Zoom! Pastor Killian will be leading a study on the Book of Acts.

<u>May Birthdays!</u>

Lynette Hurd 9th Jay Rogers 19th Leon Tarr 20th

Lectionary Summary for the Third Sunday of Easter The Good Shepherd Feeds His Lambs

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain" (Rev. 5:12), who by His cross has conquered sin and death. With His blood, He has "ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Rev. 5:9). This same Lord Jesus visits people of all nations and calls them to Himself by the Gospel, even as He "was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead" (John 21:14). He restored Simon Peter to faith and life, and He commissioned him to feed His lambs and tend His sheep (John 21:15–17). Likewise, He revealed Himself to Saul of Tarsus and brought him to repentance, so that the persecutor of Jesus might carry and confess His name "before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15).

Stewardship Bulletin Blurb

John 21:6 – "He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish." Won't the disciples ever learn? Jesus did this once before – when the odds seemed completely against it, the Lord gave them a command to let down the nets, a command that seemed crazy. But they complied and He blessed their obedience. When will we learn this lesson, too?

A Snippet From 1517 Dancing with God

Christ has forgiven you, and all of your worship, all of your prayers, all of your offerings are accepted because they are built on the foundation of Christ's forgiveness.

"Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning." (Psalm 30:4-5)

God is pretty wild. He is in the business of flipping things over. God takes impossible situations and with the twist of his hand turns them around. <u>Psalm 30</u> is such a great picture of this reality.

It seems to me that when we go through long periods of suffering, we can tend to think that all of life is that way. Depression settles in like an old, unwanted friend, and there can seem to be no way out of it. Maybe you just can't see how God is going to work in the middle of your situation—a job loss, a friend who is suffering, the death of a loved one. These periods of midnight are scary and come to us in unexpected seasons. We all will affirm, in theory, that this life is a life of suffering, and yet we are still surprised when that suffering skulks into our lives.

David was a man after God's own heart, and yet he was also a man who suffered. Suffered from the oppression of Saul and Absalom. Suffered the results of his sin with Bathsheba, the death of his son. Suffered from depression (<u>Psalm 32</u>). David suffered. But he was also a very proud man. And God is a very kind God. He was with David through the suffering. Even in David's pride, God was there.

This psalm takes us through the warp and woof of David's existence and tells a tale of hope—hope that comes through the reality that our God is living, active, *and present*. This psalm was written looking forward to the construction of the temple. It looks to a time when the visible sign of the presence of God in the midst of Israel will be constructed. But remember, the temple was not constructed until after David was dead, and yet we read the song he sang in anticipation of this momentous occasion.

He surveyed his life, and he came to the conclusion that we all should come to: without God we are in deep trouble, but when God shows up on the scene, there is deliverance and blessing. This is so encouraging to me. Many say that this psalm was written at the end of David's life after he committed one of the most egregious sins in his life, a self-serving act of pride akin to Nebuchadnezzar's sin. David numbered the people, and in doing this, he brought God's judgment on Israel. God gave him a choice, and David chose three days of pestilence to come on the people of Israel (<u>2 Samuel 24</u>).

Now we read this song of praise for the dedication of the temple. God had come as judge, bringing pestilence on the land, David offered a sacrifice, and God forgave them. Now you may be wondering why this matters to you.

Look at the psalm. David's weeping was over the reality that the sin he committed cost so many Israelites their lives and had brought great sickness on him. He says, "Oh man, I really messed things up this time. I have been brought to the doorstep of Sheol. But you, God, have restored me" (Joel unauthorized paraphrase). Have you been here? You are experiencing the temporal consequences of your sin, and you wonder if God's discipline will ever stop. You wonder if your sadness will ever go away. Here are these words of hope and rejoicing. God's anger is not yours forever. It will not be on you for the rest of time. Why? One commentator helps us to understand it by saying this,

The forgiving mercy of God towards his own people is expressly pointed out in verse 5 as the *kernel* of the Psalm. It is very remarkable that previous to the laying of the material foundation of the temple, this should have been pointed out by God Himself, as the spiritual basis on which the temple was to rest.(1)

This is what he is saying. The forgiveness of God is the foundation of the temple. It is the very thing on which all of what the temple stood for is based on. This blessing of forgiveness turns our midnight into morning and our sorrow into dancing. Because the forgiveness of God is given to us by the sacrifice of Christ. Are you weary because of your sin? Christ has forgiven you. Does it feel like God's discipline will never leave you? Christ has forgiven you, and all of your worship, all of your prayers, all of your offerings are accepted because they are built on the foundation of Christ's forgiveness.

The reality of the forgiveness of Christ in the face of your sin should fill your heart with joy. It should turn your heart from mourning to singing, your weeping to dancing. Let this reality fill your heart and your mind, let it calm your soul, let it move you to dance for joy with the God who forgives.

Eugene Petersen in his paraphrase of this psalm translates verses 11–12 this way,

"You did it: you changed wild lament

into whirling dance;

You ripped off my black mourning band

and decked me with wildflowers.

I'm about to burst with song;

I can't keep quiet about you.

God, my God,

I can't thank you enough."(2) Joel Fitzpatrick, 3/5/2020, 1517.org