FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ORDER OF WORSHIP • MAY 11, 2025 • 9:00 AM

✢ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

✢ GATHERING HYMN — WHAT IS THE WORLD TO ME
LSB #730

What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone, Lord Jesus, are my Treasure!
You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shalt be;
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!

The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone. What is the world to me!

The world seeks after wealth And all that mammon offers
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good, Content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my wealth. What is the world to me!

What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare: What is the world to me!

✢ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the ✢ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.
WL: Christ is risen!
All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

✢ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Brothers and sisters, God is present to guide our journey and eager to forgive us when we go astray; therefore, in humility and faith, let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.

All: Holy God, we confess that we have strayed from Your paths of right relationships and peace, and we have dishonored You, ourselves, and Your creation. We repent of these hurtful ways. Forgive us, we pray, as we learn to forgive others and guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.

WL: Jesus said, "I give [my sheep] eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand." Our risen Lord hears our pleas of repentance and grants us renewal, cleansing, and forgiveness for His sake. Know, then, that your sins have been forgiven in the name of the Father, the ✢ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen. The Lord refreshes our souls!

WL: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

✢ HYMN OF PRAISE

SUNG BY THE PARISH CHOIR

THE WHOLE BRIGHT WORLD REJOICES NOW

The whole bright world rejoices now. Alleluia!
The birds do sing on every bough. Alleluia!

Then shout beneath the racing skies. Alleluia!
To him who rose that we might rise. Alleluia!

And all you living things make praise. Alleluia!
He guideth you in all your ways. Alleluia!

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!
Our God most high, our joy and boast. Alleluia!

✢ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: Let us pray. 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.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSON ACTS 20:17-35

R: The First lesson for this Second Sunday of Easter is from the twentieth chapter of Acts.

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

"Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON — REVELATION 7:9-17

R: The Second lesson is from the seventh chapter of the Book of Revelation.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

"Amen! Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"

I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore,

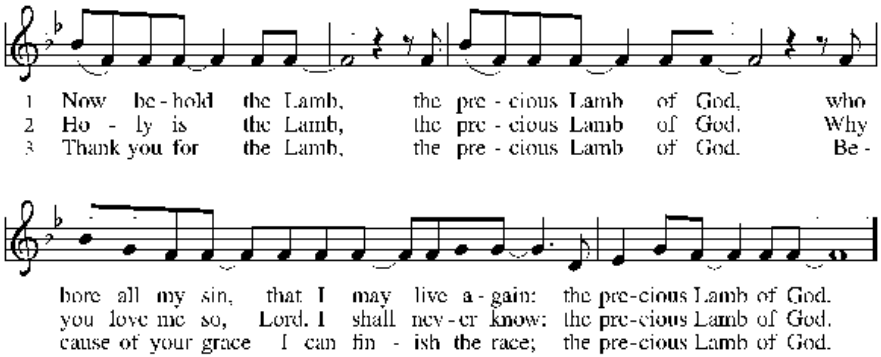
"they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.
'Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down on them,'
nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;
'he will lead them to springs of living water.'
'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

✝ VERSE — NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB

LED BY THE PARISH CHOIR — BY KIRK FRANKLIN



✝ HOLY GOSPEL — JOHN 10:22-33

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

"We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND VACATION BIBLE CAMP MINISTRY MINUTE

TODAY'S MESSAGE

✢ **MESSAGE HYMN** THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS
LBW #456

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERING MUSIC AS THE DEER - PIANO SOLO

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SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✢ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
WL: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

✢ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✢ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: As Jesus taught His disciples to pray, so we pray together:
All: 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.

✢ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN — AS THE DEER

As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

CHORUS **You alone are my strength my shield**
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

You're my friend and You are my brother
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything *CHORUS*

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye *CHORUS*

✢ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

All: Amen.

✢ CHARGE & BLESSING

WL: Now may the truth of the empty tomb—the astonishing reality of Jesus' resurrection—keep you fearless and sure that you will see the Resurrected One again and again in this life. May the power of God's endless love surround you and guide you, ✢ this day and always.

All: Amen.

✢ SENDING HYMN THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

LBW #456, STANZAS 4 & 6

TUNE: AUSTRIA

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
With thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still;
Thy cross before to guide me.

Ans so, through all the length of days,
Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house forever.

✢ SENDING

WL: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
WL: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.
All: Thanks be to God!

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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PRINCE of PEACE
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