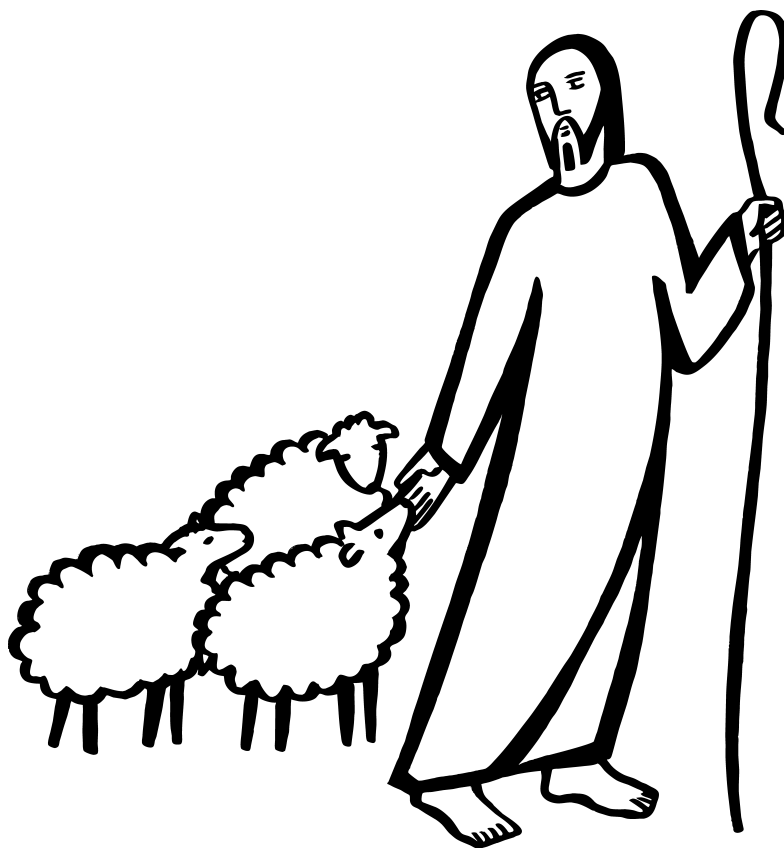


CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 11, 2025  
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

## INTRODUCTION

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those “who have come out of the great ordeal” in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## THE SEARCHING SHEEP

Messages and information today are texted, tweeted, broadcast, e-mailed, phoned, lectured, announced, packaged, and repackaged. The means and avenues for communication are many. Yet when it comes to the person known as Jesus of Nazareth we are often left standing in the place of the Jewish people who gathered around Jesus at that portico (John 10:22-23). We long to know, Who are you, Jesus? and perhaps want to probe, What are you really about? Of course the qualification is for him to “tell us plainly” (John 10:24). As the church we have grown accustomed to the idea of Jesus seeking out the lost sheep and bringing them safely home—of knowing the sheep intimately by name. Today’s texts are rich in reframing who is searching for whom. Who is seeking after Jesus, and to what does that seeking lead? Still, will we be satisfied with any answer? The faith of Tabitha and the miracle-working Peter, the vision of saints and mythical beasts, and even Jesus’ works point to one who is in and of God. Yet we wonder if it can’t be spelled out for us more clearly. In this season of proclaiming a Christ who breaks the powers of death and whose realm is one of glory, we open ourselves to questions of exactly who this Jesus is—and see answers coming to life in story, miracles, and testimony. Today is an opportunity for us in weakness and glory, in doubt and in faith, in simplicity and awe to seek and embrace the one who is already in our midst.

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*\*\* indicates to stand as you are able.*

# GATHERING

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

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Judy Treadway*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*"Come, Bless the Lord"*

(Refrain)

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord.

He is risen.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord

He is risen.

(Verse 1)

Heaven's joy, creation's King

Left his throne to save us,

Born of love for suffering,

On the cross forgave us.

(Refrain)

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord

Come, bless the Lord.

He is risen.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord.

Come, bless the Lord

He is risen.

(Verse 2)

On the cross our debt was paid.

Jesus died, rejected.

Three days in the grave he laid.

How he's resurrected.

(Refrain)  
Come, bless the Lord.  
Come, bless the Lord  
Come, bless the Lord.  
He is risen.  
Come, bless the Lord.  
Come, bless the Lord.  
Come, bless the Lord  
He is risen.

Come, bless the Lord.  
Come, bless the Lord  
Come, bless the Lord.  
He is risen.  
Come, bless the Lord.  
Come, bless the Lord.  
Come, bless the Lord  
He is risen.

**\*\* OPENING LITANY**

With God as my shepherd, I am secure.  
I shall want for nothing.

**With Christ the Lamb, the world is saved.  
Our sins are forgiven, and our souls are restored.**

The Good Shepherd guides me in safety to cool waters,  
Where I can rest in comfort and peace.

**The Lamb brings meaning to our suffering and courage to our fear.  
He shows us the reward of love.**

I will follow my Shepherd to the banquet he has prepared.  
All will see the bounty of God's mercy.

**On the last day, we shall rejoice at the throne of the Lamb,  
and forever shall we dwell in our Father's house.**

Jesus is both Lamb and Shepherd.  
**He brings us from death to life. Hallelujah!**

**\*\* GATHERING SONGS**

**"You Are My All in All"**

(Verse 1)

You are my strength when I am weak.  
You are the treasure that I seek.  
You are my all in all.  
Seeking you as a precious jewel,  
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool.  
You are my all in all.

(Refrain)

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is your name.  
Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is your name.

(Verse 2)

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,  
Rising again, I bless your name.  
You are my all in all.  
When I fall down, you pick me up.  
When I am dry, you fill my cup.  
You are my all in all.

(Refrain)

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is your name.  
Jesus, Lamb of God,  
Worthy is your name.

## “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

**"Cornerstone"**

**(Verse 1 - Music Ministers / All)**

**My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.**

**My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**Christ alone. Cornerstone.  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.**

**(Verse 2 - All)**

**When darkness seems to hide his face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**Christ alone. Cornerstone.  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.  
He is Lord, Lord of all.**

**Christ alone. Cornerstone.  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.  
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.**

**(Verse 3 - All)**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh may I then in him be found,  
Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
Faultless stand before the throne.**

**\*\* 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.

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.**

**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

**\*\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING**

Acts 9:36-43

*Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.*

A reading from Acts

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. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. 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." 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. 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. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside 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**

## SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-17

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.*

A reading from Revelation.

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. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

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

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, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honor

and power and might

be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that 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.

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.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat;  
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.**

**\*\* GOSPEL READING**

John 10:22-30

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. 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." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**YOUTH MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE**

*Pastor Bob Swanson*

**\*\* APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.**

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.

## **\*\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Assisting Minister*

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.*

*Each petition concludes:*

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.**

## **GATHERING OF THE GIFTS**

### **OFFERTORY**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Assisting Minister*

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.**

# MEAL

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

## **\*\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

## **\*\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

## **\*\* LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**\*\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

*For those communing at home or in the pew:*

**COMMUNION** — *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.  
The blood of Christ shed for you.

*Each person may respond: Amen.*

**Communion Statement** ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

**REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

**\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**\*\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Assisting Minister*

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.**

**\*\* SENDING OF COMMUNION**

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent.  
The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**\*\* BLESSING**

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

**\*\* SENDING HYMN**

*"This Is Amazing Grace"*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,  
Who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

(Refrain - All)

**This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,  
That you would take my place,  
That you would bear my cross,  
You laid down your life  
That I would be set free.  
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me,  
All that you've done for me.**

**(Verse 3 - All)**

**Who brings our chaos back into order,  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.**

**(Verse 4 - All)**

**Who rules the nations with truth and justice,  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,  
That you would take my place,  
That you would bear my cross,  
You laid down your life  
That I would be set free.  
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.**

**(Music Ministers)**

**Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain:  
Worthy, worthy, worthy! Oh!**

**(Refrain - All)**

**This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,  
That you would take my place,  
That you would bear my cross,  
You laid down your life  
That I would be set free.  
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me,  
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me,**

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Hallelujah! Christ is risen.

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

Go in peace. In Christ, you are made new.

**Created, saved and gifted by God,**

**we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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**“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO**

**MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,  
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION  
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

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**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Matthias, Apostle**

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Matthias was the apostle added to the Twelve after Jesus' resurrection, as a replacement for the dead Judas Iscariot. He had traveled among the followers of Jesus throughout the Lord's ministry. Formerly commemorated on February 24, Matthias's celebration is moved to May 14 in agreement with most Western calendars.