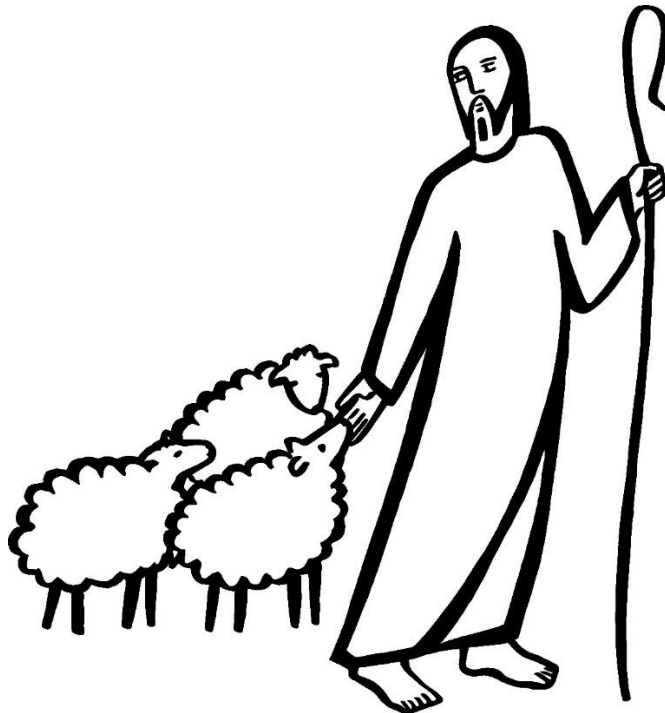


Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 11, 2025 ~ 8:15 and 10:30 am

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*Those who attend 8:15 Worship are encouraged to leave
their bulletins if they do not wish to take them home.*
=====



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.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org)
425 N. Main Street, Russell, KS 67665 ~ 785-483-5358
email: stjoh@ruraltel.net ~ website: stjohnrussell.com

Pastor Teri Sutherlin (620-521-6454) ~ John Dumler, PMA (785-483-1382)
Weekly Services: Saturday, 6:00 pm; Sunday, 8:15 am; Sunday, 10:30 am

Sunday, May 11, 2025 ~ 8:15 and 10:30 am
Litany for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year C

PRELUDE

COMING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P: In the name of +† the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

P: 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,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: 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,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: 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,

C: make us one as you are one.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE GREETING

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

C: And also with you

GATHERING HYMN: "Our Father, by Whose Name"; Verses 1 & 3; LBW 357

1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name all par - ent - hood is known,
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, bind our hearts in u - ni - ty

in love di - vine you claim each fam - 'ly as your own.
and teach us how to find the love from self set free;

Bless moth - ers, fa - thers, guard - ing well, with con - stant love as
in all our hearts such love in - crease that ev - 'ry home, by

sen - ti - nel, the homes in which your peo - ple of dwell.
this re - lease, may be the dwell - ing place of peace.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.
Music: RHOSYMEDRE, John D. Edwards, 1806–1885
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Please join me in prayer. O God of peace,

C: 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.

BLESSING FOR WOMEN

P: Gracious God, in love you have given us gifts as women. Grant to each of us your power and grace. Strengthen our relationships with tenderness and understanding, with compassion and joy. Endow us with wisdom and knowledge for us to joyfully share with others that they may also come to know you and that we may become your instruments of helping others to grow in their faith.

Give us the courage to be living examples for showing others how to live and how to love; how to seek and pursue that which is right and true; how to turn away from all that is hurtful and wrong. Deepen our own faith that we may share our love for you with others. Your love that sustains us, nourishes us, and is always with us and others throughout our entire lives. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

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Congregation may be seated.

THE READING OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

³⁶ 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. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ 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." ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 23

L: ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C: ² The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

L: ³ You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

C: ⁴ 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.

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

C: ⁶ 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

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹ 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, ¹² singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷ 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."

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW Service Music 174

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation 'Alleluia'. Both staves are in the treble clef and the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes on both staves.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

P: The Holy Gospel according to John 10:22-30

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ 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." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"; Verses 1, 2 & 4; ELW 789

1 Sav - ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847
 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

THE SERMON: Pr. Teri Sutherlin

Please stand as you are able

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P: With our faith in Jesus Christ, let all the people of God confess their faith of the church:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

P: 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.

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great. *(repeat response after each petition)*

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

C: 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.

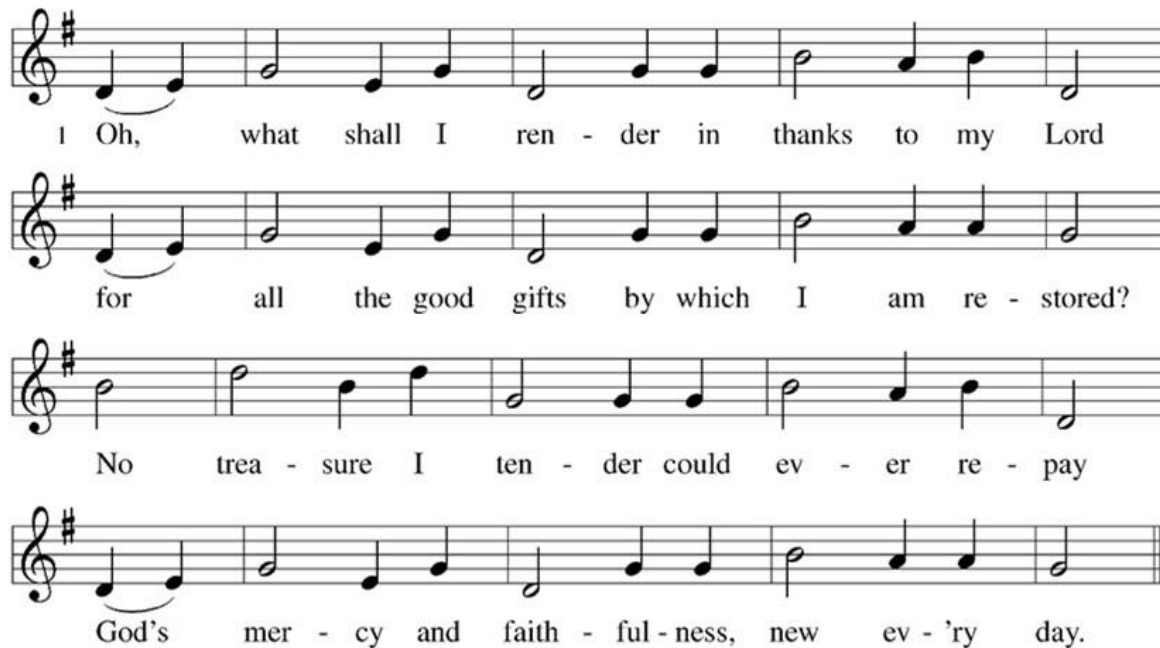
THE SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Congregation members may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace as you are comfortable doing so, saying, "Peace be with you", or similar words.

THE OFFERTORY: "Oh, What Shall I Render"; Verse 1; HFW 983



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "1 Oh, what shall I render in thanks to my Lord for all the good gifts by which I am restored? No treasure I tender could ever repay God's mercy and faithfulness, new ev-'ry day." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Text: Martin A. Seltz, based on Ps. 116
Music: FOUNDATION, early North American

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THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

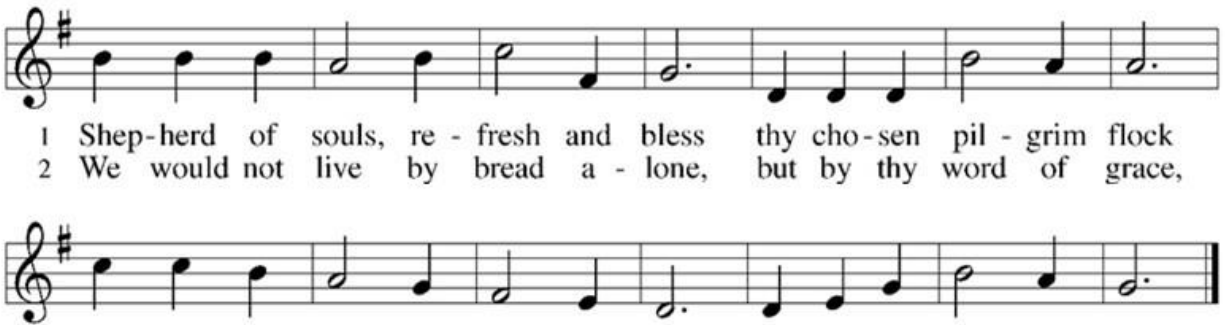
C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and ✠ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: "Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless"; Verses 1 & 2; HFW 1101



1 Shep-herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen pil - grim flock
2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy word of grace,
with man - na in the wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
in strength of which we trav - el on to our a - bid - ing place.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

BLESSING AND SENDING

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

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

POSTLUDE

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CALENDAR

Tues, May 13.....Council Executive Meeting (5:30 pm)

Thurs, May 15**NO Bible Study with Pastor**

.....Rostered Leaders Synod Meeting via Zoom (1:00 – 3:00 pm)

Sun, May 1810:30 Service Sunday - Worship with Communion and Baptism of Lydia Lofland

.....Care Center Worship (2:00 – 4:00 pm)

Wed, May 21.....Western Kansas Regional Meeting in Hays (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Thurs, May 22Church Council Meeting (6:30 pm)

Mon, May 26.....St. John Offices closed in observance of Memorial Day

Sat, May 31.....We Gather As One to worship at 6:00 pm – **NO St. John services Sunday, June 1.**

Sun, June 1RCAOC Praise in the Park (10:00 am) – ALL St. John members are encouraged to attend this community service

ADDITIONS TO THE PRAYER LIST

OUR SYMPATHIES AND GOD’S COMFORT TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

Roy Gosser (brother of Jean Mai)
Roger Michaelis (brother of Gerald Michaelis)
Edna Pfeifer (sister of Jean Mai)
Dennis D. Strecker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The application link for the **Mai Family Scholarship and the Earlin Nuss Memorial Scholarship** can be found at stjohnrussell.com. Applications must be submitted no later than Tuesday, July 1, 2025. Award notifications will be made in writing to each recipient (awards will be presented directly to the education institutions). All scholarship recipients (or their representative) must be present at the 10:30 Service on Scholarship Recognition Sunday, July 28, 2024.
- **At 6:00 pm, Saturday, May 31, We Gather As One to worship** in the Sanctuary. *There will be no services at St. John Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 1.* All St. John members are encouraged to attend the RCAOC Praise in the Park service. This community service will be held at 10:00 am in Bickerdyke Park.
- The **Build a Busy Bag Station** is located under the coat rack just south of the narthex, the Station has a supply of canvas bags available to fill with story books, toys, puzzles, coloring books, and more to keep little ones occupied during worship. Children (and parents) are invited to select several items from the Station, add them to a canvas bag, and enjoy worship. After worship, Busy Bags should be returned to the Station so they may be cleaned and sorted before the next service. Items will be rotated periodically to keep little ones interested. For more information, or to volunteer to help maintain the Station, please contact the church office.