



April 27, 2025
First Sunday after Easter

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

During the Prelude, you are invited to meditate on the Psalm of the Day as you prepare your heart and mind for worship.

Prelude

Prelude in C Major BuxWV 137
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
Ruth Pfister, Organ

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 28:6-9

Praise be to the Lord,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.
The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.
The Lord is the strength of his people,
a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.
Save your people and bless your inheritance;
be their shepherd and carry them forever.

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

*Call to Worship

Lydia Meister

Leader: This is the good news—the grave is empty; Christ is risen.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the good news—the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: This is the good news—once we were no people; now we are God's people.

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

People: Hallelujah! Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!

*Hymn of Praise #108 "Christ Is Alive!"

Prayer of Confession

Nathan Wannemacher

Leader: Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to destruction and despair.

People: Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Pardon (1 Peter 1:18-21)

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

God's Will for Our Lives

Leader: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (James 4:10)

People: May we never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to us, and us to the world.

(based on Galatians 6:14)

***Gloria Patri #579** "Glory Be to the Father"

RECEIVING THE WORD OF GOD

Children's Message

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 85:8-13 (p. 596)

Lydia Meister

Meditation

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

Arr. Mark Hayes

Randal Turner, Baritone; Ruth Pfister, Organ

New Testament Reading

John 21:1-14 (p. 1090)

Sermon

"A Miraculous Catch"

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

***Hymn of Response #357** "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

PROFESSING WHAT WE BELIEVE

***The Apostles' Creed** (ecumenical, p. 14)

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 the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, 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.

GATHERING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Invitation

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Leader: With joy we praise you, gracious God...

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit...

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray saying:

The Lord's Prayer

The Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

Raja Chintapalli, Elder for
Children's Ministry

Offertory

Aria "Mache dich, mein Herze, rein" from *Matthäus-Passion* BWV 244

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Randal Turner, Baritone; Ruth Pfister, Organ

***Doxology #592** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

GOING WITH GOD'S MISSION AND BLESSING

Welcoming of Guests

Raja Chintapalli

Announcements

***Hymn of Dedication #371** "Lift High the Cross"

*Sending and Pastoral Benediction

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

Postlude

Fugue in C Major BuxWV 137

Dietrich Buxtehude

Ruth Pfister, Organ

****Please stand if you are able.***

Today's bulletin cover art features Italian artist Raphael's The Miraculous Draught of Fishes (ca. 1515). This full-scale drawing (rendered with gouache over charcoal on many sheets of paper then mounted on canvas) was commissioned by Pope Leo X for the Sistine Chapel. It was purchased by Charles I of England (when Prince of Wales) in 1623, and it has been on loan since 1865 to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, where it is displayed today.