

Sunday, May 11, 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

St. John's Lutheran Church



EASTER

He is not here. He is Risen.

Welcome to

St. John's Lutheran Church



*My sheep
hear my
voice*

JOHN 10:27

Jesus with a Lamb (watercolor) by mammuth. Copyright © 2023 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images. Used by permission.

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Nicki Nye

Margareth Olsson

Mary Rimer

Valerie Taylor

Chris Wise

The altar flowers are given
to the glory of God by
Anna, John, Tad, Sharon,
and Thomas in honor of
Nancy McGalliard on
Mother's Day.

We are honored to
welcome guest organist,
Terrye Danner.

The opening hymn sounds
the keynote of the day.

9:00 AM

Assisting Minister:
Chris Wise

Acolyte/Crucifer:
Enrique Jimenez

Lector:

Tom Donaldson

Communion Assistant:
Nancy Friedrich
Mari Brooks

Ushers:

Cindy Merkel

Darrell Merkel

A/V:

Brennan Whitehead

11:00 AM

Assisting Minister:
Clarence Scott

Acolyte/Crucifer:
Clare Griswold

Lector:

Benny Smith

Communion Assistants:
Megan Venable
Laura Trout

Ushers:

Angela Long

Brad Long

A/V

Brennan Whitehead:

Altar Guild:

Before:

Toni Wise

Between:

Megan Venable

After:

Angela Long

Brad Long

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP THEME

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

(Please stand and face the cross)

OPENING HYMN ELW 858

"Praise to the Lord Almighty!"

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

APOSTOLIC 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.

This prayer concerns the theme of the day and prepares us for hearing the readings from scripture.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

Verse 1 Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

In the First Lesson: 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.

(Please be seated.)

THE FIRST LESSON

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.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

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

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

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

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.**

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.

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.**

*In the Second Lesson:
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.*

THE SECOND LESSON

REVELATION 7:9-17

⁹After 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. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And 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, ¹²singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for 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."

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOD'S INVITATION: "Let the Children Come..."

Matthew 19:14

(Please stand.)

GOSPEL VERSE

“Nothing in All Creation”



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

We stand while the Gospel is read and speak acclamations after the reading because we believe Christ is present to us in the reading.

In the Gospel Lesson: 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 meditation interprets the meaning of God's word for our lives today.

HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 10:22-30

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: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated.)

MEDITATION

Pastor John Tirro

We sing this principal
hymn in response to
the Word which has
been proclaimed to us.

(Please stand.)

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 789

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”



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;
3 You have prom-ised to re-ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
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.
you have mer-cy to re-lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
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, ear-ly let us turn to you.
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, ear-ly let us turn to you.
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

APOSTLES' CREED ELW p. 127

**C: 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.**

This reference to the
holy catholic church is
to the church universal.

*With this prayer, we
express our concern for
the whole Church, for
the nations of the
world, for people in
their various needs, and
for our own
congregation.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(Please kneel. Following each petition, respond with "Your mercy is great".)

A: You guide your people to the waters of life. Make your church a nourishing place for all who are thirsty for hope and healing. Renew us in the waters of baptism, and send us forth as signs of your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You tend to the earth, sustaining life in all places. Revive fragile ecosystems and restore species in danger of extinction. Teach us new ways of living in balance and harmony with our non-human neighbors. Hear us, O God.

A: You lead all peoples along right pathways. Grant wisdom and compassion to judges, lawyers, mediators, and legal advocates. Dismantle systems of mass incarceration, empower processes of restorative justice, and encourage all who strive for healing in our communities. Hear us, O God.

A: You wipe the tears from every eye. Tend to all who struggle with anxiety or depression, loneliness, or despair. Enfold all who are in any need in your shepherding care. Hear us, O God.

A: This Mother's Day, bless mothers, grandmothers, and all who offer mothering care. Come close to those whose relationships with their families are difficult, and console all who grieve the loss of mother figures or the loss of children. Hear us, O God.

A: You are the source of everlasting life. In deep gratitude for all your saints, we rejoice in the joy and hope of the resurrection made known to us in Jesus, your beloved child. Hear us, O God.

A: 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.

Those Remembered in Prayer:

*Michael Adams, David & Linda Cash, Pat & Charlsie Counts,
Al Gill, John Jessel, Dick Krogmann, Don McWilliams,
Nancy O'Callaghan, Norma Peterson, Don Ray, Frances Ratliff,
Clarence Scott, Pam Shealy, Keith Solt,
Maxine Whistler, Ann Williams, Bill Wing,
our seminarians: Jordan Baker, Caitlynne Fox, and Joe Ley,
the students, staff, & mentors at Christenberry Elementary school,
synod partners in Guatemala, and all those affected
by the devastation of Hurricane Helene*

SHARING THE EUCHARIST

(Please stand.)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

We respond to God's
Word by giving our
offerings for God's work
in the world.

Offering plates will be
placed by the font, for
people to make an
offering on their way in
or out of the service.

OFFERING AND SIGNING OF THE PEW REGISTER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"These are the Gifts"
~John Tirro

(Please stand.)

OFFERTORY REPONSE ELW 361

"The Day of Resurrection!"

Verse One only



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,



the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

The offertory prayer
reminds us that God is
the source of all gifts.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Risen One,

C: 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.

*The Presiding minister
greet the assembly
and invites all present
to give thanks.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P: The Lord with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The words Jesus used in
instituting the Lord's
Supper remind us of
God's wonderful works,
invite us to receive the
sacrament, and ask for
the Holy Spirit to
bless us.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*This prayer is based on
Matthew 6:9-13 and
Luke 11:24.*

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

COMMUNION

Regarding the gift of Holy Communion, all are welcome! This is God's table, and there is a place for each of God's beloved. Gluten-free wafers are in the small silver box on the baptismal font.

An usher will direct you down the center aisle to the chancel stairs where you may:

- Receive Holy Communion by intinction, taking the bread, dipping it in the wine, and consuming them together
- Receive Holy Communion by the common cup, first eating the bread and then drinking from the silver chalice
- Receive a blessing by placing your hands across your chest and embracing God's love for you

You will return to your seat by the side aisle.

Again, all are welcome at God's table; come and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;
 2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords is his by sov-'reign right,
 3 The joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low
 4 To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is giv'n;

a roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.
 the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heav'n's e - ter - nal light.
 to whom he man - i - fests his love, and grants his name to know;
 their name, an ev - er - last - ing name, their joy, the joy of heav'n.

5 They suffer with their Lord below;
 they reign with him above;
 their profit and their joy to know
 the myst'ry of his love.

6 The cross he bore is life and health,
 though shame and death to him;
 his people's hope, his people's wealth,
 their everlasting theme!

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855
 Music: ST. MAGNUS, Jeremiah Clarke, 1669–1707

(Please stand.)

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C: **Amen**

REFRAIN

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,
 For if you lead me, I can - not stray.
 Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
 Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

VERSES

1. I am weak and I need your strength and pow'r
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness,
 3. I am lost if you take your hand from me,
 1. To help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
 2. Be my aid when e - vil and sin op - press.
 3. I am blind with - out your light to see,
 1. Help me through the dark - ness your face to see,
 2. I am put - ting all my trust in thee.
 3. Lord, just al - ways let me your serv - ant be.
To Refrain
 1. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
 2. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
 3. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Doris M. Akers, 1922-1995
 Text and music © 1953, Doris M. Akers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

The SJLC Minute

May 2025

CALENDAR

May 11	4th Sunday of Easter Worship Faith Formation Mother's Day Reception *Nursery *Children ... Music, Lesson, Snack, and Craft *Youth ... Games and Spiritual Gains *Parents ... Coffee and Conversation *Adults ... Bible Study Worship
May 12	Staff Meeting APATT Feeding Ministry
May 15	Highways and ByWays feeding Ministry
May 18	5th Sunday of Easter Worship Faith Formation Graduate Celebration *Nursery *Children ... Music, Lesson, Snack, and Craft *Youth ... Games and Spiritual Gains *Parents ... Coffee and Conversation *Adults ... Bible Study Worship



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

This Sunday at 10:10 in the Fellowship Hall, we'll continue our series of meditations on the theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In our reading for Sunday, Bonhoeffer writes, "Whoever cannot be alone should beware of community," and "Whoever cannot stand to be in community should beware of being alone." The reading also expands on those statements and offer good food for thought. Join us!

As usual, we'll meet for coffee, food, and good conversation.

Stepping Stones Celebration

Sunday, May 18

At each service, we will honor our high school seniors, followed by a special recognition between services where folks can extend well wishes in the Welcome Center.

Joe Ley graduated this past Friday, May 10, at the Gettysburg Campus of United Lutheran Seminary. Please join the St. John's family as we prayerfully support his next steps which will include an ordination on Saturday, June 28 at 11:00 AM at SJLC!



Women's Bible Study

Kory Graham is going to begin a Women's Bible Study following the plan, "Praying Through the Psalms:

60 Days To Uncomplicate How You Talk To God."

The study will be both in a private Facebook Group, as well as a couple of in-person meet ups.

It will be a very easy, no pressure or stress format. It is completely acceptable to just observe and not respond in the group!

The goal is simply for more fellowship with each other in between Sunday services.

Please call/text/email Kory if you are curious to learn more!

You can join in on the study at any time!

507-259-7825

mjjerseygirl@gmail.com

TODAY 10:10 AM

Help us celebrate all the Mothers in our lives with light brunch bits, Coffee, and tea in the Welcome Center between services.





FINANCIAL REPORT



4-30-2025



YTD actual income \$232,949; YTD budgeted income \$242,955
Variance **\$10,006** (income was less than budgeted)

YTD actual expenses \$222,509; YTD budgeted expenses
\$234,129

Variance **\$11,620** (expenses were less than budgeted)

Variance income to expenses **\$10,440** income was more than
expenses

Questions? Please contact Heather Wallace at
heatherbpwallace@gmail.com or 773-351-9143 or Debbie
Sweany at doubledcs@yahoo.com or 423-921-4812.



Youth Ministry Internship Opportunities

Mission Statement: To equip youth with practical skills, spiritual growth, and community engagement experience. The Youth Intern Program seeks to foster leadership, responsibility, and service in young people by involving them in meaningful roles within the life of the Church.

Opportunities: AV Tech Intern
Youth Ministry Intern

Eligibility Criteria: Age... 14-18 years old
Availability... 5-8 hours a week
Skills... aligned with specific roles

Next Opportunity: June through August

Questions? Contact Sara at sara-@sjlcknox.org.



Baby Shower for Kate and Andy's Little One
Saturday, June 7 | 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM
Sparks Fellowship Hall



June 9-13, 2025

9 am - noon

Do Your Kids Like to Sing?!

Messiah Lutheran Church

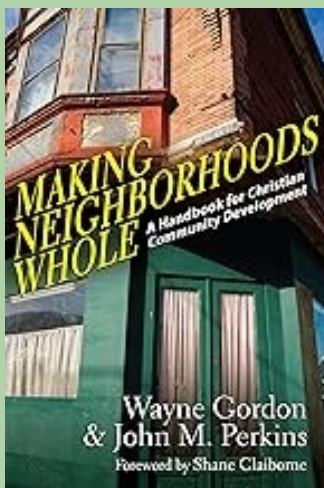
Rising 2nd – 7th Graders; limit 30 children

Cost: 1 package of cookies and 1 white T-Shirt

Register: Music@MessiahKnoxville.org

Deadline: May 12, 2025

Music, Art, Puppets, Instruments



The congregation is invited to read *Making Neighborhoods Whole* over the summer as consider our next steps as a member of the inaugural cohort of the Flourishing Congregation Initiative.

Details forthcoming, so get your copy now!

Church Office

544 N. Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917

865.523.3330

865.524.7895•(fax)

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am - 4:30 pm |

Email: INFO@sjlcknox.org • Website: www.sjlcknox.org

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