



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.

Mother's Day

Fourth Sunday of

Easter

Sunday, May 11, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Order of Worship for Sunday, May 11, 2025

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: On this day of celebrating mothers,
We remember and lift up our mothers to the Lord.
Mothers of young children, first-time mothers,
Working mothers, and single mothers

C: We see you and honor you today.

P: Grieving mothers who have lost a child too soon,
And those who desire to be mothers

C: We see you and honor you today.

P: All those who are missing their mothers,
And mothers who are missing their children

C: We see you and honor you today.

P: Mothers who did not give birth to us biologically,
But have raised us and brought life to us in countless other ways

C: We see you and honor you today.

P: In times of full joy and abundance,
In times of empty nests and empty cradles,
In all these God tends his flock like a shepherd
And carries the lambs close to his heart.

C: As a mother comforts her child, so will God comfort us

OPENING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

"Loving God, we thank you for the gift of motherhood, for the wonder of creation, and for the love that a mother's heart holds. We are grateful for the mothers who have shaped our lives, nurtured our spirits, and loved us unconditionally. Today, we lift up all mothers, both those who have given us birth and those who have served as guiding lights in our lives. We ask for your blessing upon them, for strength in their daily challenges, for grace in moments of difficulty, and for the joy of knowing that their love has made a difference in the world. May your peace and comfort fill their hearts, and may their lives be a testament to the beauty and power of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

“Have No Fear Little Flock ” #476

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

SALUTATION

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.

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

(Please be seated)

WORD

THE FIRST READING is from the Book of: Acts, Chapter 9 verses 36 through 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.

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: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM HYMN

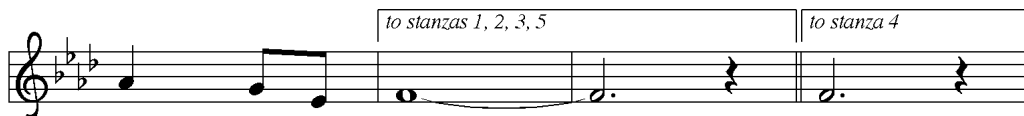
(ELW #780)

Refrain

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I
2 Gent-ly you raise me and heal my wea-ry soul, you
3 Though I should wan-der the val-ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith-ful-ness and love, I
lead me by path-ways of righ-teous-ness and truth, my
fear no e-vil, for you are at my side, your



walk by the qui-et wa-ters of peace.
spir-it shall sing the mu-sic of your name.
rod and your staff, my com-fort and my hope.

Refrain



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of



Refrain

ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

Final refrain



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of Revelation, chapter 7, verses 9 through 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.

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: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW # 174)



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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: 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.

²²It was the Feast of the Dedication in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the Temple, in Solomon's Porch. ²⁴The Judeans surrounded him. "How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense?" they asked. "If you are the Messiah, say so out loud!"

²⁵"I told you", replied Jesus, "and you didn't have faith. The works which I'm doing in my father's name give evidence about me. ²⁶But you don't have faith, because you don't belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them the life of the coming age. They will never, ever perish, and nobody can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and nobody can snatch them out of my father's hand. ³⁰I and the father are one."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY –

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” #456

Lutheran Book of Worship – Green Hymnal

EASTER UNISON PRAYER

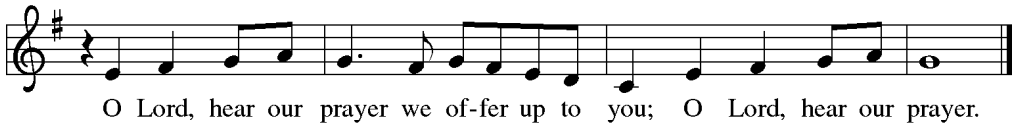
P: Let Us Pray,

C: O God of Easter joy, we come this morning with glad shouts of acclamation. Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. May this time of worship help us to truly and fully experience this Risen Christ. May we be transformed. transformed into your butterfly people, winging through the earth with messages of beauty, hope and life.

Amen.

PRAYER SONG

(ELW #170)



PRAYERS

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: 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.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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 *especially* Jeff O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Jean D., Brad L., Tom N., Cathi, Jim & Sharon L., Melanie W., Ingaborg, Grete L., Heather, Kim D, Robin B,, Daniel and all those we name in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

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.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)

(ELW #170)



O Lord, hear our prayer we of-fer up to you; O Lord, hear our prayer.

PASSING THE PEACE

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: “And also with you.”

(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with others around you.)

OFFERTORY

(WOV#673)

1 I'm so glad Je-sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad

Je-sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad Je-sus lift-ed me,

sing-ing glo-ry, hal-le-lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

P: Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God.

P: Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Redeeming God, you called a woman to be closest to your Son at the moment of his nativity, at the place of his crucifixion, and in the wonder of his resurrection. Like a mother hen gathering her chicks you draw the weary, the lost, and the betrayed to the abundant table of your kingdom.

Send your Holy Spirit to sanctify this bread and cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, on the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

Yearning God, bless every mother who gives and does not count the cost, who labors and does not ask for any reward, save that of knowing that she does your will.

Visit and heal the sadness of those who's calling to be a mother has not been fulfilled. Transfigure the distress of any whose experience of raising a child has meant a sword has pierced their own heart. Hasten the day when the holy city descends like a bride prepared for you, when all desires are known and from you no secrets are hid, ever-living, ever-giving God, Trinity of mercy and love.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Reaching out to one another let us join our hands and hearts together in the prayer that our Lord taught 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. All are welcome.

(Please be seated)

SHARING THE MEAL

For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice/covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.

For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.

COMMUNION HYMN -

“When Love Is Found” #749

With One Voice – Blue Hymnal

(Please rise)

COMMUNION BLESSING

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: May the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit,
strengthen us for the Christian life.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, send us
out to live and work for others.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.

C: AMEN!

SENDING HYMN -

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

RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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THE ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of my mom, Shirley Woodward on
Mother's day by Anne Woodward.

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Julie Hansen

Communion Assistants: Vicki Thiery & Julie Hansen

Building Host, Offering Presenter: Ed Young

Coffee Hour: OPEN Altar Flowers: OPEN

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Musician: William Mueller

WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 5/18):

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Kelly Imhoff

Communion Assistants: Kelly Imhoff & Jerod Alderson

Building Host, Offering Presenter: Kelly Imhoff

Coffee Hour: OPEN Altar Flowers: OPEN

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Musician: William Mueller



Jeff O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Jean D., Brad L., Tom N.,
Cathi, Jim & Sharon L., Melanie W., Ingaborg, Grete L.,
Heather, Kim D, Robin B., Daniel



Spring Rummage SALE

Living Faith 2915 Wright Avenue

(please use south entrance)

Handicapped Accessible to Fellowship Hall

MAY 15TH, 9AM-3PM

WITH NACHOS

MAY 16TH, 9AM-6PM

BAKE SALE & HOT DOGS/SLOPPY JOE'S

MAY 17TH, 9AM-NOON

1/2 PRICE DAY & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: COLLECTIBLES, HOME DECOR AND
HOUSEHOLD GALORE, FURNITURE, TOYS, BOOKS, GARAGE TREASURES INCLUDING
A SNOW BLOWER, CLOTHING FOR THE FAMILY, SHOES, PURSES, JEWELRY AND MORE!

"Your Trash is someone Else's Treasure"

AND WE HAVE IT ALL!



Do you have a 2025 Graduate in your family? Please let the church office know so we can recognize them on Sunday June 29th.

2025 LACE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. The deadline to return them is May 31, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA...

Sunday, May 11, 2025

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hearth Room

Friday, May 16, 2025

8:00 to 3:00 P.m. – RUSD – fellowship hall

Sunday, May 18, 2025

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hearth Room