

**Third Sunday of Easter  
April 14, 2024**

**Gathering**  
*God invites us to enter His presence*

**Prelude**


**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

*Dennis Lesher*

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.  
**For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.**  
God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.  
**Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**  
—Psalm 47:1-2, 5-6, NRSV

 **Invocation** (*Responsively*)

*Dennis Lesher*

Sing praises to God, O you saints,  
and give thanks to God's holy name!  
**We exalt you, O God, for you have restored us to life!**  
We may cry through the night, but your joy comes with the morning.  
**You hear us, O God, and you are gracious in our distress.**  
You turn our mourning into dancing!  
Our souls cannot be silent!  
**O God, our Savior, we give thanks to you forever! Amen.**

 **Hymn 64**

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

**Confessing**  
*God invites us to be honest with Him*

**Call to Confession**

*Dennis Lesher*

Our Lord Jesus said:  
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’  
This is the greatest and first commandment.  
And a second is like it:  
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’  
On these two commandments

hang all the law and the prophets.”  
As God has instructed us in these great commandments,  
and because we have not lived in full obedience,  
let us now confess our sins to God,  
trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

—based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

### **Prayer of Confession**

*Dennis Lesher*

Generous God, you send us the Spirit of courage,  
but we have been afraid. You send us the Spirit of truth,  
but we cling to our illusions. You send us the Spirit of healing,  
but we cannot let go of our hurts. Holy Spirit of forgiveness, come to us  
again: shake our hearts, set our souls on fire with your love:  
send us out into the world rejoicing in your power. We hold out to you  
all our particular burdens of guilt and sin, and we ask for your help  
to live the way of your justice and love. **Amen.**

### **Time for Silent Confession**

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

*Dennis Lesher*

In Christ you were marked with the Holy Spirit,  
a seal of our redemption in Christ.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
we become dead in sin and alive anew in Christ.  
May you be filled with the Holy Spirit  
so that you may have hope of new life,  
may grow in your knowledge of the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and may experience the incomparable power of God  
that raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. **Amen.**

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
A-men, A-men.*

### **Offering**

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

#### **Invitation**

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,  
where moth and rust consume and where thieves break  
in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in  
heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and  
where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your  
treasure is, there your heart will be also.

—Matthew 6:19-20, NRSV

**Offering**

**Offertory**

**! Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*  
*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;*  
*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

**! Prayer of Dedication**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things.  
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.  
With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate  
our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have  
made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us—  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**! Preparation Song**      *O Love that Will Not Let Me Go*

*O love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths in flow  
may richer, fuller be.*

*O light that follow'st all my way,  
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.*

*O joy that seekest me through pain,  
I can not close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.*

**Proclaiming**  
**God speaks to us through His Word**

**Children's Sermon**

*Up, Up and Away*

*Dennis Leshner*

**! Illumination Song 247**

*Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me*

## Scripture Reading

Luke 24:44-49, Acts 1:1-11

<sup>44</sup> He told them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He also said to them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high.”

<sup>1</sup> I wrote the first narrative, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After he had suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup> While he was with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father’s promise. “Which,” he said, “you have heard me speak about; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.”

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.”

## Sermon

*“Wait on the Spirit”  
Rev. Tim Latham*



## Song of Response

*Lord I Need You*

### Verse 1

*Lord, I Come, I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest.  
And without You, I fall apart. You’re the one that guides my heart.*

### Chorus

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You.  
Every hour I need You. My one defense, my righteousness;  
Oh, God, how I need you.*

### Verse 2

*Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more. Where grace is found is  
where You are.  
And where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.*

### Chorus

*Bridge*

*So teach my song to rise to You when temptation comes my way.  
When I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay.*

*Chorus*

*Tag*

*You're my one defense: my righteousness; oh, God, how I need You.  
My one defense, my righteousness, oh, God, how I need You.*

**Responding**  
***We respond to God's Word***

 **Profession of Faith**

**Christ Jesus,  
though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
to the glory of God:  
Jesus Christ is Lord!**

—from Philippians 2:5-11, NRSV

**Prayers of the People**

**Commissioning**  
***God sends us out into the world as His witnesses***

 **Hymn 381**      *Open My Eyes, that I May See*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**

