



Third Sunday of Easter

26 April 2026

Pastor Bekah Davis

PRELUDE & MEDITATION

A close-up photograph of several light pink cherry blossoms. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The petals are a soft, pale pink, and the stamens are a darker pink with yellowish tips. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown and green, suggesting a branch and leaves.

Tomasz Pietak-Organ

WELCOME & CANDLE LIGHTING



OPENING HYMN – CH 25

Praise to teh Lord, the Almighty

1.

Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, who rules all creation!

O my soul, worship the wellspring
of health and salvation!

All ye who hear; now to God's temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

2.

Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth;
who, as on wings of an eagle uplifted, sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen?
All that is needful hath been granted
in what God ordaineth

5.

Praise to the Lord!

O let all of earth's peoples and races

All that hath life and breath,

give thanks for manifold graces.

Let the Amen sound from God's people again;

gladly forever sing praises.

PASSING OF THE PEACE





SPECIAL PEOPLE



SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2: 42-47

Read by Jon Pirtle

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:1-10

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 23

Read by Pastor Bekah

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,[a]
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

A close-up photograph of several light pink cherry blossoms in full bloom, with visible stamens and pistils. The flowers are set against a dark, blurred background of a branch and leaves. The lighting is soft, highlighting the delicate texture of the petals.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Spirit Song

VCC Choir

Cassandra McConnell-Grujcic , Choir Director

SERMON

A shepherd in a patterned sweater and dark jacket stands in the center of a paved road, holding a staff. A large flock of sheep is gathered around him, with a dog visible among them. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The scene is bathed in a soft, golden light, suggesting early morning or late afternoon.

Shepherd of the sheep

RESPONSIVE HYMN- CH 558

Savior, like a shepherd lead us

1.

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

2.

We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

3.

Early let us seek Thy favor,
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

**OFFERING
&
MEDITATION**



DOXOLOGY – CH 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilot,
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,
And will come again to judge The living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy universal church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.

Amen

Meal

*An offering is gathered, and the table is set. Assembly song or other music may accompany or follow the gathering of the offering. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands. The gifts may be brought forward. An offering prayer may be said; the assembly responds **Amen**.*

Great Thanksgiving

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The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

COMMUNION AND MEDITATION





ANNOUNCEMENTS



CLOSING HYMN – CH 590

Kum Ba Ya

1. Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!
2. Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's crying, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

3. Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's singing, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

4. Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!

BLESSING

**GO IN PEACE TO LOVE
AND SERVE THE LORD.**

THANKS BE TO GOD

Amen! אָמֵן

POSTLUDE

