



Saint Peter's Lutheran Church
May 11th, 2025

2570 St. Peter's Church Road, Salisbury, NC 28146

***Church Website:* <https://www.saintpeterslc.org/>**

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Pastor Sue Lynn White
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Fourth Sunday of Easter: May 11th, 2025

Good Shepherd Sunday

* Indicates to stand as you are able. P=Pastor, C=Congregation,
A=Assisting Minister, L=Lector

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE GARDEN

P: God of creation, we thank you that in this time and place you have granted us a community garden where your children may gather and grow together. Bless our footsteps as we walk upon this holy ground. Bless our hands as we plant new seeds and relationships. Keep us ever vigilant to see the growth you bring, that all who partake of this harvest might find in it a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for us in your kingdom.

Let us pray. God of abundance, who breathes life into humanity and speaks creation into being, you have graciously entrusted us with the care of all your creatures and called us to encounter you in the breaking of bread and the sharing of a common cup. Pour out your Spirit upon this garden, that it might be a place of devotion and care; of reconciliation with our wounded planet and with one another; of growth and flourishing within this soil and within our bodies. May the fruits of our labor be acceptable in your sight, to the well-being of all your beloved creation and your eternal glory.

Amen.

PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

***C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

*P: In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

***C: Amen.**

*P: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. (*pour water*)

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

***C: make us one as you are one.**

*P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

***C: make us one as you are one.**

*P: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

***C: make us one as you are one.**

*P: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

***C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us ELW 437

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Let us pray. 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.**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

First Reading.....Acts 9:36-43

L: A reading from Acts 9th chapter.....(Lector:)

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 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.**

Second Reading.....Revelation 7:9-17

L: A reading from Revelation the 5th chapter.....()

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.

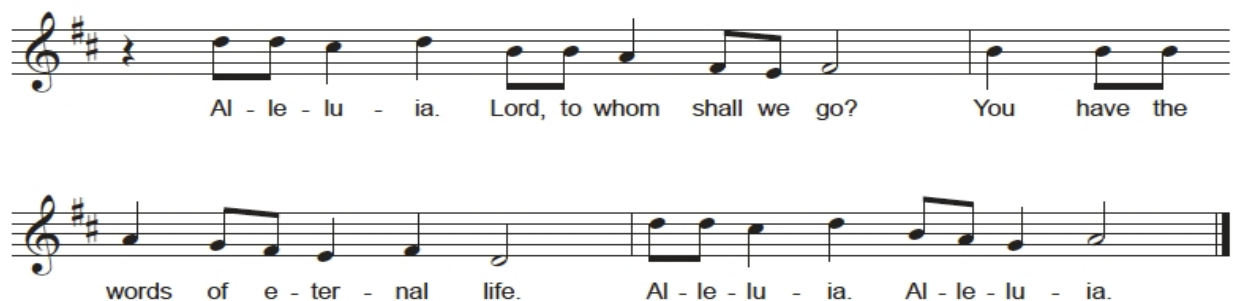
¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

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: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation



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

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The 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 our Lord. ***C: Praise to you, O Christ**

Children’s Sermon

The Sermon.....Pastor Sue Lynn White

***Hymn of the Day The King of Love My Shepherd Is ELW 502**

***APOSTLES’ CREED**.....(**Assistant Minister:**)

***A:** Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

***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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

When our valleys are full of shadows Lord, send us the. Light of your son. Jesus, that we might find our way. Shepherd of our heart comfort us with your overflowing love, hear our prayers offered with thanksgiving and sincerity. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

When our cups seem empty Lord, fill them with your love so that our acts of service to the world overflow and benefit others. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

When our nation and other countries walk in darkness Lord, fill our leaders with hearts that beat for peace, justice, and provision for all people. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

When the hungry go unfilled and the hurting are left alone Lord, melt our hearts that we might be your hands at work serving those in need. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

When our bodies are ill and our minds are full of turmoil Lord, send us the peace of your presence and give us the gift of your healing. We especially pray for Marlene Shue, John Trexler, Guy & Betty Puckett, Jim & Phyllis Cornelison, Jerry & Carolyn Sides, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Phil & Carol Boyette, Brenda H. Trexler, Judy Peeler, Lynn DeBerry, Marcia Ritchie, Lucy Shue, Bobby Lambirth, Jean Holshouser, Phyllis Trexler, Mary Miller, Sue Misenheimer, Thelma Barger and those we hold in our hearts and lift before you now. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

When our time on earth is ended Lord, guide us into the green pastures of your kingdom that we might. Live in your kingdom this day and always. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

***P:** Accept the prayers of your sheep O Lord and grant us peace in our day that we might live out our lives to the glory of your son Jesus Christ who reigns with you and your Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

***C: Amen.**

PEACE

***P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

***C: And also with you.**

***P:** Let us share the peace with one another.

THE OFFERING
Anthem
Offering Hymn

Do You Know Your Shepherd's Voice?
We Are an Offering **ELW 692**

We Are An Offering

ELW 692

The musical score is written for a single voice part in 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The lyrics are: 'We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. we are an offering.'

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our
lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our
voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.
All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we
give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our
hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. we are an of-fer-ing.

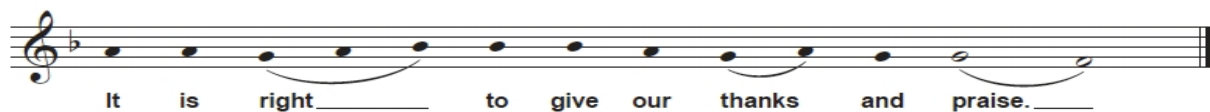
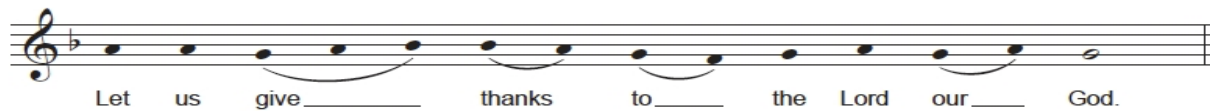
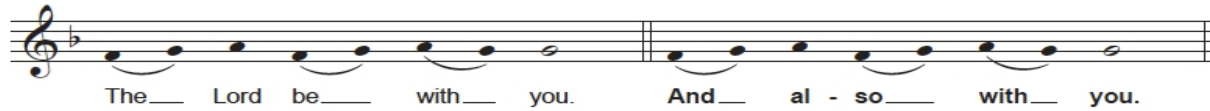
OFFERING PRAYER

*A: Let us pray. 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.

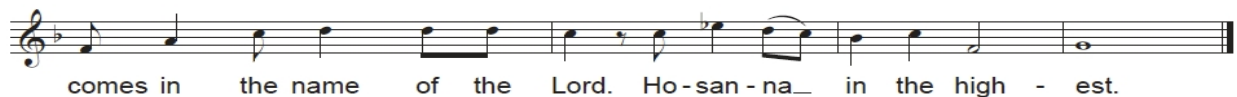
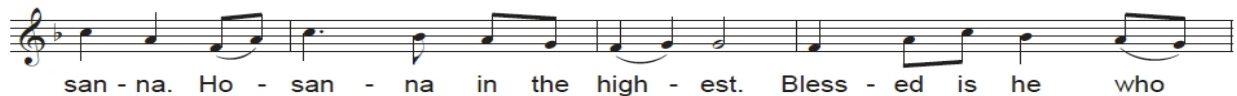
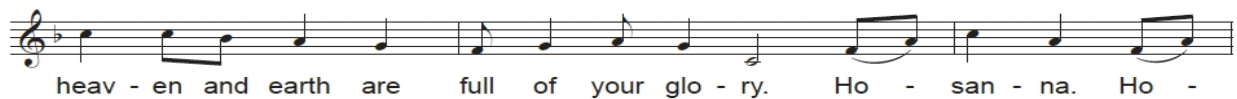
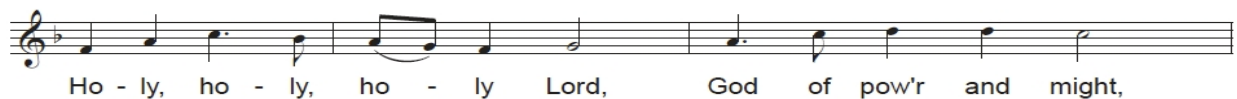
MEAL

PREFACE DIALOGUE



*P: It is indeed our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

*C: **Holy, Holy, Holy**



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

*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.

*C: Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION

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.

COMMUNION BLESSING

*P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*A: Let us pray. 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.

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

BLESSING

*P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now
and always.

***C: Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW 768

THE DISMISSAL

*A: Rooted in the love of Christ

***C: We grow in grace and joyfully branch into a broken World!**

*P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

***C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

***C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Silent Prayer and Chiming of the Trinity Postlude*