

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Sunday, April 30, 2023**  
**10:00 am**



**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**1910 34<sup>th</sup> Ave SE**  
**Albany, Oregon**  
**(541) 926-4875**

**Email: [office@goodshepherdalbany.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdalbany.org)**  
**Website: [www.goodshepherdalbany.org](http://www.goodshepherdalbany.org)**



With the psalmist we proclaim, “You prepare a table before me ... my cup overflows” (Psalm 23:5, NRSV). Welcome to worship as we praise and thank the Lord our Shepherd.

### Serving at Worship Today

<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Dick Running
<b>Reader</b>	Sue Lamp
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bill & Karen Wetzel, Marilyn Kirsch & Vikki Thune
<b>Usher</b>	Bob Hibbs & Crew
<b>Hosts</b>	Johnson/Wetzel/Jacobson
<b>Counters</b>	Thomas/Young



Laura O'Brien	<b>Pastor</b>
Rob Hibbs	<b>Council President</b>
Sheldon Flom	<b>Vice President of Council</b>
Teresa Thomas	<b>Treasurer</b>
Jessica Madrid	<b>Church Bookkeeper</b>
Meghan Hess	<b>Church Office Manager</b>
Kacey Fenicottero	<b>Director of School</b>
Crystal Weinmann	<b>School Bookkeeper</b>
Penny Bazanele	<b>Pianist</b>
Serena Gerhart	<b>Choir Director</b>

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Sunday, April 30, 2023**  
**Feast & Celebration**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Presider:* In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen**

*Presider:* If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

*Presider:* Most Merciful God,

**Congregation: Have mercy on us.**

**All: We confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.**

*Presider:* With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

## GATHERING SONG

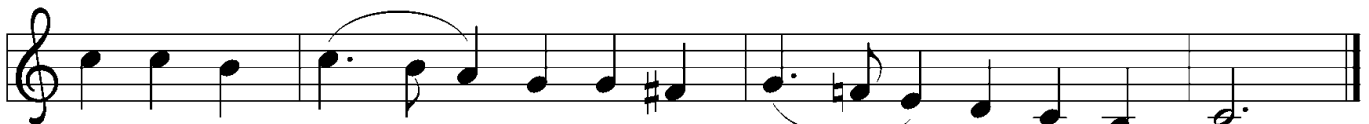
### Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## PASTORAL 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.**



# NOW THE FEAST

## Refrain

*Congregation:*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
er - more!

## Verse 1:

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit - ed us to be one great  
peo - ple of God.

*To refrain*

Verse 2

*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ  
for ev - er. *To refrain*

Verse 3

*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us,  
to make us peo - ple of God; to make  
all things new. *To refrain*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray..... God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**CHOIR TO SING**

## FIRST READING: ACTS 2:42-47

L: The First Lesson is from Acts the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter, beginning at the 42<sup>nd</sup> verse:

<sup>16</sup>One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.

<sup>17</sup>While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." <sup>18</sup>She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup>But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities.

<sup>20</sup>When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup>and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup>The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup>After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup>Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup>When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup>The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup>They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup>They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup>At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup>He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**



## PSALM 23

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**He makes me lie down in green pastures**

**and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>He revives my soul

and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely your 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: 1 PETER 2:19-25

L: The Second Lesson is from 1 Peter the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter, beginning at the 19<sup>th</sup> verse:

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.

<sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for

righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

## GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter, beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse:

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

<sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

<sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### 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.

## NICENE CREED

**A:** God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C:** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,

**maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**A:** United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

You are the shepherd who gathers us in your mighty and loving arms. Help your church to listen for your voice, especially when the voices of sin, idolatry, and oppression threaten to overpower us. Hear us, O God.

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

- A: The green pastures, still waters, and dark valleys of this earth all belong to you, O Lord. Sustain your creation with a love that is both mighty and just. Where there is destruction, bring healing. Where there is desolation, bring abundance. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- A: You proclaim shepherding love, comfort, and protection for all people and all of creation. Direct leaders in our own time to learn from your example and instruction. Give them servant hearts, that they generously seek the good of all. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- P: You journey with us wherever our paths may lead. We pray for those feeling overwhelmed by anxiety or depression or suffering in any way..... Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- P: Gracious God, watch over and care for all persons who serve in the military..... Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- A: You are the sheepgate that gives safety to your beloved flocks. Provide protection for refugees, victims of domestic violence, those who are imprisoned, and all people who are vulnerable to violence and mistreatment. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- A: You call your sheep by name and lead them through the valley of death. We give you thanks for those who have died and now dwell in your house forever. Be with those who mourn, and give them hope in the promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.
- C: Your mercy is great.**
- P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
- C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.**
- P: Let us greet one another with a sign of God's peace.  
The congregation is invited to greet one another with a gesture of peace (hand shake or hug) using these or similar words – *God's peace be with you.*

# OFFERING

Gathering of Offerings

Offertory

Presentation of our Gifts

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Refrain

*Congregation:*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be



gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, \_\_\_\_\_
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when \_\_\_\_\_

*To refrain*



may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.... God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

C: Amen

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "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 God thanks and praise." The score is divided into parts for the President and the Congregation. The President's part is indicated by the label "President:" above the staff, and the Congregation's part is indicated by "Congregation:" above the staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes on each staff.

*President:* The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al - so with  
you. *President:* Lift up your hearts. *Congregation:* We  
lift them to the Lord. *President:* Let us give  
thanks to the Lord our God. *Congregation:* It is  
right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you. O God, through Jesus Christ, who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Congregation*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the  
 One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God; everything is filled with your glory. We give you thanks for your promise and presence which has sustained the faithful in this and every generation. Above all, we give you thanks for Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice, reconciliation and peace.

On the night of his betrayal our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the 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, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.



P: Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, his resurrection and his ascension, we pray for his coming again, even as we cry:

*Presider:*  
A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus. A -

*Congregation:*  
men. Come, Lord Je - sus. A - men. Come, Lord

Je - sus. A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The Presider's part consists of three lines of music. The Congregation's part also consists of three lines of music, with the first line starting with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus. A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus. A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus."

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation.

*Presider:*  
A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. A -

*Congregation:*  
men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. A - men. Come, Ho - ly

Spir - it. A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The Presider's part consists of three lines of music. The Congregation's part also consists of three lines of music, with the first line starting with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it."

P: This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.

### THROUGH CHRIST, WITH CHRIST, IN CHRIST

*Congregation:*

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the  
u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is  
yours, O God, now and for ev - er.  
A - men.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff begins with a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence on the fourth staff.

### LORD'S PRAYER

P: Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

**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**

### DISTRIBUTION

P: We welcome you to the Lord's Table to share the Sacrament of Holy Communion with us. Holy Communion is served with both red wine and white grape juice. It is your choice to receive either one. Empty cups may be placed in the bowl to the left or right as you return to your seat.

## COMMUNION



☐ 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.

## COMMUNION HYMN



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here,  
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here,  
We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

## COMMUNION BLESSING

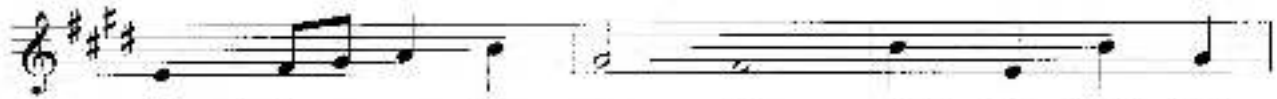
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

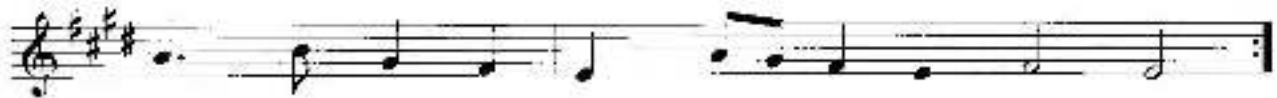
## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:  
2. From of old you loved and sought us:



Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the  
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice



weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



3. Praise to you O God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



Thanks be to you for ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray... Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

## BLESSING

## SENDING HYMN

### Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -  
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,  
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!  
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;  
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -  
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,  
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.  
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

## Calling all volunteers!!!!

Our annual garage sale is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> so we'll need lots help setting up on the 11<sup>th</sup> and taking down on the 13<sup>th</sup> and of course working the sale. If you are interested, please sign-up on the sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board. Any questions please contact Brenda Black #503-726-6006



***\*\*Donations cannot be brought in until May 7<sup>th</sup>\*\****



### Drive Thru Community Dinner Menu

Served Wednesdays from 5-6:00pm outside of the church kitchen

5/3 – Chicken Enchiladas Casserole, salad, chips & dessert

5/10 – Spaghetti, salad, roll & dessert

5/17 – Chicken & Rice Casserole, salad, roll & dessert

***\*\*LAST DINNER UNTIL SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>\*\**** 5/24 – Hotdogs, potato salad, chips & dessert

*Call the church office by Tuesday at noon to reserve your meals #541-926-4875*

### Report for Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Total Attendance:

Total Deposit: \$



**Weekly Schedule**  
**April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>**

- Today:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour – **MPR**  
11:45 a.m. Pinochle - **MPR**
- Monday:** *Memorial Day – Church & School Closed*  
6:00 p.m. AA
- Tuesday:** 10:15 a.m. Walking Group-  
6:00 p.m. AA
- Wednesday:** 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study - **Family Room**
- Thursday:** 6:00 p.m. AA
- Friday:** 6:00 p.m. AA
- Saturday:**
- Sunday:** 9:00 a.m. New Member Class – **Family Room**  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour – **MPR**

**Upcoming Events and Reminders**

- **Pinochle** May 29<sup>th</sup>
- **Memorial Day** May 30<sup>th</sup>
- **Pentecost** June 5<sup>th</sup>
- **Trinity Sunday** June 12<sup>th</sup>
- **Flag Day** June 14<sup>th</sup>
- **Father's Day** June 19<sup>th</sup>
- **First day of summer** June 21<sup>st</sup>

## Tables Spread for Life Abundant

Sometimes a table is spread in a generous fashion but still feels impersonal, like the buffet at a big conference. You can fill your plate as many times as you want, but that doesn't change the fact that you're wearing a printed name tag because no one in the room actually knows your name.

And sometimes a table spread seems meager because it's the end of the month or you didn't have time to make it to the store, but you're with friends who feel like family, so no one is worried about how simple the meal is.

Today we have the best of both worlds. We have abundance to the point of extravagance, and we have a God who knew our names even before we were born. We have a table heaped with grace upon grace and our heads anointed with oil, and we have a God whose voice we recognize as soon as we hear our names spoken aloud. All our beloveds have been invited, and every last one of us has a name card in front of our plates, handwritten in our favorite color, no doubt. Today we're reminded that even when the world feels like a wreck, God shows up with abundance, inviting us by name.

Where have you noticed this lately? Where have you noticed goodness and mercy following you around? Where have you noticed evidence that God wants you to experience life? In the feisty weeds poking up through the cracks in the sidewalks? In the hope of the students who are so close to summer break they can taste it? In the bright sunshine breaking through the clouds not thirty seconds after the thunder stops? In the youngest members of your worshiping community, skipping forward with their hands outstretched for bread and blessing?

It's there, this evidence of God's life abundant. Go looking for it. Go looking to remind someone else. It's way too good to miss.