

Worship at First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 10 am

"Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" (John 11:40)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

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HYMN #467: *HOW GREAT THOU ART*

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *[Refrain]*

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin; *[Refrain]*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!" *[Refrain]*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Our gracious and loving God invites us:

Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

We will delight in the richest of fare.

Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways

and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

**We will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before us,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.**

This will be for the LORD's glory,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever.

**Let's worship the Lord together.
Let's come to the Lord's Table with confession and praise.**

Based on Isaiah 55:1-7, 12-13.

CHOIR

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Lazarus, Come Out!"*

John 11:1-46

A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha.² This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick.³ So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

⁴ But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this."⁵ So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus,⁶ he stayed where he was for the next two days.⁷ Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

⁸ But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?"

⁹ Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world.¹⁰ But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light."¹¹ Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up."

¹² The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!"¹³ They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

¹⁴ So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.¹⁵ And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him."

¹⁶ Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days.¹⁸ Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem,¹⁹ and

many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss.²⁰ When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ “Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.²⁶ Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.”²⁸ Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, “The Teacher is here and wants to see you.”²⁹ So Mary immediately went to him.

³⁰ Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him.

³¹ When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus’s grave to weep. So they followed her there.³² When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled.³⁴ “Where have you put him?” he asked them.

They told him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Then Jesus wept.³⁶ The people who were standing nearby said, “See how much he loved him!”³⁷ But some said, “This man healed a blind man. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

³⁸ Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance.³⁹ “Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.”

⁴⁰ Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?”⁴¹ So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me.⁴² You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.”

⁴³ Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”

⁴⁵ Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen.⁴⁶ But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

RESPONDING TO GOD’S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support our deacons’ provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.

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HYMN #507: I COME WITH JOY TO MEET MY LORD (verses 1-4)

I come with joy to meet my Lord,
 Forgiven, loved, and free,
 In awe and wonder to recall
 His life laid down for me,
 His life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
 To find, as all are fed,
 The new community of love
 In Christ's communion bread,
 In Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
 Each proud division ends.
 The love that made us, makes us one,
 And strangers now are friends,
 And strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
 His presence, always near,
 Is in such friendship better known:
 We see and praise Him here,
 We see and praise Him here.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Our practice is to eat the bread individually as it is distributed,
 and to hold onto the cup until all have received it, and then partake of it in unison.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer***Communion******The Apostles' Creed***

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker 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 Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
 he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
 he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 from there 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.

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HYMN #280: AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

BENEDICTION and POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

- TODAY** Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor)
 Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
 Special Offering: *One Great Hour of Sharing*
- Tuesday, Apr. 8** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
- Wednesday, Apr. 9** Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
 Lenten Study: *Friendly Faith*
 Coffee and Study (1:00 pm)
 Soup and Study (6:00 pm)
- Thursday, Apr. 10** Session (7:00 pm)
- Saturday, Apr. 12** Creation Station (11:00–1:00)
- Sunday, Apr. 13** Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor)
 Palm Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
 Potluck (after the service)
 Special Offering: *One Great Hour of Sharing*
- LOOKING AHEAD** April 17: Maundy Thursday Service (6:30 pm)—
 preceded by a supper together at 6:00 pm
 April 20: Easter Sunday celebration of the Resurrection

Church Financial Update (through March)

Actual Expenses to Date: \$55,779.48 □ Giving to Date: \$48,268.60
Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church and its mission!

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