

Fourth Sunday Of Easter

April 21st 2024 9:30am



Share Read Talk Pray Bless

Preparation For Worship: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. *Psalm 23:6*

Opening Song

Goodness Of God

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything

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With my life laid down

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With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God
I will sing of the goodness of God

Ministry Spotlight *Share*

Invocation

Pastor: We gather today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Jesus tells us, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."
John 11

People: God is good!

Pastor: All the time!

People: All the time!

Pastor: God is good!

People: Like spring after winter is the faithful renewal of Jesus' love.

Pastor: May your life be renewed like spring after winter in Jesus' love.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Jesus' preaching began with, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Jesus also answered the Pharisees when they questioned who He welcomed and forgave, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

People: After His resurrection Jesus said to His disciples, "It is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Pastor: Acknowledging the promise and call of God to confess, repent, and receive forgiveness, we join in the Apostle John's words:

People: **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned we make God a liar, and His Word is not in us.**

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Forgive me of my sins, I pray. *(Reflection for confession)*

Pastor: Jesus laid down His life for our sins to be forgiven. He cleanses us, and calls us clean as we believe and receive His reconciliation. As you have confessed and believed, as a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and according to His Word, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Daily Text

A gossip goes about telling secrets, but one who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a confidence. *Proverbs 11:13*

Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Him Who is the head, into Christ. *Ephesians 4:15*

Let us pray:

People: **God, the world lives on gossip. It is the very air we breathe. Forgive me for imbibing in my social media instead of meditating on Your Word. Help me put down my phone and go to Your throne for updates that really matter. Your words of eternal life are stronger than the world's smothering strife. Amen.**

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Acts 4:5-12

⁵ On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

The Psalm

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Lesson

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Reader: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us Good News.

People: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You have the words of eternal life.**

Psalm 119:105, John 6:68

Gospel Lesson

John 10:11-18

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended

into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Song

Not For A Moment (After All)

You were reaching through the storm
Walking on the water
Even when I could not see
In the middle of it all
When I thought You were a thousand miles away
Not for a moment did You forsake me
Not for a moment did You forsake me

After all You are constant
After all You are only good
After all You are sov'reign
Not for a moment will You forsake me

You were singing in the dark
Whispering Your promise
Even when I could not hear
I was held in Your arms
Carried for a thousand miles to show
Not for a moment did You forsake me

After all You are constant
After all You are only good
After all You are sov'reign
Not for a moment will You forsake me
(Not for a moment will You forsake me)

And ev'ry step ev'ry breath You are there
Ev'ry tear ev'ry cry ev'ry prayer
In my hurt at my worst when my world falls down
Not for a moment will You forsake me
Even in the dark - Even when it's hard
You will never leave me (after all)

After all You are constant
After all You are only good
After all You are sov'reign
Not for a moment will You forsake me
Not for a moment will You forsake me
Not for a moment will You forsake me

Jesus, said, "I am the Good Shepherd.
The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

Offering Song

Jesus Draw Me Close

**Jesus draw me close
Closer Lord to You
Let the world around me fade away
Jesus draw me close
Closer Lord to You
For I desire to worship and obey**

**Jesus draw me close
Closer Lord to You
Let the world around me fade away
Jesus draw me close
Closer Lord to You
For I desire to worship and obey**

Prayers of the Church

Pray

The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church, the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.

Pastor: Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

People: **Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with these words...

Pastor: You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

People: **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**

The God of angel armies is always by my side

SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE

Welcome To Worship At Zion. We are pleased to have you join us. *If you are a visitor* please check the shelf outside the office for our newsletter and brochure.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of the April 20th birthday of Carol Ellner from Blair and Jess Ellner.

The Property & Grounds Committee met on 3/25/24. We will be trimming the shrubs outside each pod of our church several weekday afternoons in April. Additionally, we will be cleaning any winter debris...branches, etc., and also putting/adding bark chips in the area near the church entrance. If you would have an hour or two to help with these clean-up tasks, please call JoAnne at 920-948-9503.

The 2024 Altar Flower Chart is up in the hallway. Sign up for one (\$22.50) or two (\$45.00) vases. Please indicate whether it is in honor or memory of an individual or special event.

The Mission of the Month for April is supporting Pr John Rutzindintwarane and his work in Rwanda and other parts of Africa.

Bible Studies/Small Groups

Wednesday 6:00pm G.I.F.T.

Worship at Zion

Wednesday 7:00pm Worship and Praise

Saturday 5:00pm Chapel Service

Sunday 8:00am Worship

9:30am G.I.F.T. Worship

11:30am Swahili-English Worship

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