

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Matthew 25: Build Vital Congregations Sunday

April 6, 2025

Eleven O'Clock

Greeters: Elizabeth Price and Lori Gast
Liturgist: Pat Nash

PRELUDE:

CHIMING THE HOUR

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Psalm 118 says: **This is the Day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Good morning and welcome. It is so nice to see all of you here this morning. Visitors, please sign the attendance registers located in each row.**

Please stand, in body or spirit, and join me in our Call to Worship and remain standing through the Assurance of Pardon

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Responsively)

Leader: **Lord, You call us to take the good news to all people,**

People: **we follow Your call with joy!**

All: **Let us worship God.**

Please bow your heads for our Opening Prayer

***OPENING PRAYER** Lord of all that was, and is, and is to come, be with us as we worship You and clear our minds from the distractions of this world. During this one hour, set aside to celebrate Your greatest gift to humanity, help us to focus solely on our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

Our first hymn today is:

***HYMN** No 703 "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me" ST. CATHERINE

***CALL TO CONFESSION** If we say we are without sin, we deceive ourselves. Let us confess our sins before Almighty God.

Let us pray together

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God, we live in a world full of conflict and despair. We sometimes find ourselves losing hope. We are disheartened by the stories we see and read of our inhumanity toward others. Forgive our self interest and doubt. When we become discouraged, deliver us from the depths of our despair that we may see Your grace in all situations. Forgive us when we fail to act as Your forgiven people, living in the sure knowledge of our salvation. (Say **“Please pray silently,”** and after a little while say,) In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: **Brothers and sisters in Christ, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

People: **Thanks be to God!**

You may be seated.

A TIME FOR YOUTH At this time would our youth please come forward.

Please bow your heads for our Prayer for Illumination

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Lord, illuminate Your scripture for us today. Give us ears to hear and wisdom to understand Your words. Amen.

PSALTER LESSON Our Psalter Lesson comes from Psalm 126, please read it responsively with me.

Leader: **When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.**

People: **Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”**

Leader: **The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.**

People: **Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

Leader: **May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

People: **Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

Leader: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: **Thanks be to God!**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS Our Old Testament Lesson comes from Isaiah 43:16-21 you may follow along in your pew Bibles on pages 672-673 of the Old Testament

Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

The choir will now sing the Anthem:

ANTHEM: “Come into God’s Embrace” Music-Mary McDonald, Words-Herb Frombach

GOSPEL LESSON Our Gospel Lesson comes from John 12:1-8 you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 106 of the New Testament

John 12:1-8

12Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Janet Boyanton

Those who are able, please stand and join with me in singing:

***HYMN** No. 223 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” CARDINAL

Please join me in Affirmation of Faith as it is printed in your bulletin.

***AFFIRMATION** The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 581 “Glory Be to the Father” GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end, Amen, amen.

You may be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS It is time for announcements, does anybody have an announcement they would like to make?

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY And now it is time for our Prayer Concerns and Celebrations. Does anybody have anything they would like to share?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY:

***RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 606 *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

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.

Let us come to God with our prayer of Thanksgiving

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Creator God, You prepare a new way in the wilderness and Your grace waters the desert. Help us to recognize Your hand working miracles beyond our imagining. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing You are doing, so that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of Your love for all, and its presence in Jesus Christ. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

(For the music used during the prayer turn to #552, 553, and 554 in the hymnal.)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: To the one true and living God...

Therefore, we praise You, joining our voices with the choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of Your name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

How wonderful are the works of Your hands, Holy God, and how gracious is the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior...

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Breathe on us, breath of God, and upon these gifts of bread and cup...

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Our last Hymn today is:

***HYMN** No.846 "*Fight the Good Fight*" NA-UI DO-UM

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE:**

Hymn No. 542 "*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*" GOD BE WITH YOU
**God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***POSTLUDE:**

***Those who are able may stand.**

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS
FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Daily Bread

Supplement

DeSoto Presbyterian Church www.desotopresbyterian.org

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY – 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Group

THURSDAY – 10:00 AM Art Group

NEXT SUNDAY – **Communion**

10:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

SIGN UP SHEET FOR EASTER LILIES

There is a sign-up sheet for Easter Lilies in the Opportunity Corner. The last day to sign-up for them will be on Palm Sunday, April 13th.

EASTER LUNCH

We are going to have a Pot-Luck Easter Luncheon on April 20th following the worship service. We understand some of you will be celebrating Easter with your families, but for those who don't have prior commitments, we would love to have you join us. Bring a dish to share, and let's celebrate this glorious day together.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our Leaders

Our Presbytery, our church, our Session

Our Troops

Joe and Lorrinda Alexander

Thomas Alexander – please continue to pray

Jim Glander

Martha Brashear – continued prayers

The church and nation of Ukraine

Makia's people in Cameroon

DeSoto Food Pantry

Max Jewell is at home, but needs our continued prayers as he is still recovering

Chikezie is very weak

Christians in Pakistan

Janet

Joan Christy

Devynne's grandmother, Doris Poteet, is still on the ventilator but is doing much better

Pope Francis is very ill

Cheryl Fernandez is going through chemo and is not doing very well

Cori Laws is not doing very well, but she is improving.

Prayers for the Pearson family, Mr. Pearson was found non-responsive by his children

Prayers for all the people affected by the earthquakes

Bill Gast is still sick

Tesla owners and car dealerships

CELEBRATIONS

Pat's grandson Spenser has been accepted into SMU's 4+1, and will get his Master's Degree in 5 years instead of 6.