

**March 31, 2024; 9:00 am**  
Easter Sunday

## **We Gather Together**

*Welcome to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on the radio we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.*

*We will begin today's celebration of the resurrection in darkness, allowing us time to remember the events leading up to this day: Jesus' betrayal, torture, execution, and burial.*

### **What has happened?** Selected readings from John's Gospel (CEB)

Pilate had Jesus taken and whipped. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. Over and over they went up to him... and they slapped him in the face. The soldiers took Jesus prisoner. Carrying his cross by himself, he went out to a place called Skull Place (in Aramaic, *Golgotha*). That's where they crucified him—and two others with him, one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "It is completed." Bowing his head, he gave up his life.

It was the Preparation Day and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath, especially since that Sabbath was an important day. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of those crucified broken and the bodies taken down. Therefore, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men who were crucified with Jesus. When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so they didn't break his legs. However, one of

the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

After this Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one because he feared the Jewish authorities. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and took the body away... There was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus in it.

### **Opening Scripture: Mark 16:1-8 (CEB)**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him. Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

### **Processional Hymn GTG 232 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"**

#### **Welcome & Announcements**

*Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin*

#### **\* Opening Prayer**

*Pastor Craig*

O God of all our days, we come this morning with eager anticipation. We seek to know you, to see you, to touch you. Open our hearts, that we might experience you anew. Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses to your resurrection. May we, with shouts of joy, proclaim your steadfast, liberating love to all people, everywhere. Amen.

**\*Call to Worship**

*Kay M., Liturgist*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Darkness has been vanquished!

**The brilliant light of hope has come!**

Come let us worship and celebrate the Good News!

**Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Sing praise to God for Christ has risen!**

**\*Sung Response: GTG 248 "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"**

*Carol W., Cantor*

**\*Call to Confession**

*Kay M., Liturgist*

We who have doubted, rejected, and turned away are invited to express before God all that keeps us from claiming God's promises and living in peace with our sisters and brothers. Let us open our hearts to make room for the newness of life Christ offers.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

*Kay M., Liturgist*

**Gracious God, in whom there is no partiality, we confess that our love is limited to those with whom we choose to associate. Our faith is restricted to what we can prove. Our service is reduced by our greater interest in the trappings of success. We have allowed religion to become a compartment in our lives, rather than relationships that influence and transform us all.**

*Silent Confession*

*(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)*

Holy and gracious God, **forgive our unfaithfulness and make today a time of new beginnings. AMEN.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. --

*Colossians 1:20*

The victory of our Lord over sin and death is available to us through faith. Sin no longer has power over those who belong to Christ.

**Our sins are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

### **\*Sharing God's Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

*(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. **We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.**)*

**\*Sung Response: GTG 582** "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

## **God's Word Is Proclaimed**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 10:34-43 (Common English Bible)**

(page 129 in the pew Bible)

Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living

and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**Children’s Time**

*Jennifer Zander*

**Sermon:** “The Power of Testimony”

*Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin*

**Sung response: GTG 761** “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

## **We Respond to God’s Word**

### **Receiving New Members**

**PRESENTATION** (by Clerk of Session or other current Ruling Elder)

I present the following list of individuals who, by action of your Session, have been received into the membership of this congregation:

**Daniel Alwin, Kristine Alwin, Wendy Peachey,  
Gerhard Pretorius, Elfrieda Pretorius, and Thomas Larson.**

(Pastor continues) You come to us as members of the one holy catholic church, into which you were baptized, and by which you have been nurtured. We are one with each other, sisters and brothers in the family of God. We rejoice in the ministry you bring to us. As you join with us in the worship and mission of this household of ministry, it is fitting that together we reaffirm the covenant into which we were baptized, claiming again the promises of God which are ours in our baptism.

Hear these words of Holy Scripture:

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God’s own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. (1 Peter 2:9 CEB)*

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith, following the Apostles’ Creed:

Do you believe in God the Father?

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**We 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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**We 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.**

### **QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

(New members are invited to turn and face the cross)

1) Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I DO.**

2) Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior? **I DO.**

3) Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love and compassion? **I WILL.**

4) In the power of the Holy Spirit, will you participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of Christ's church through your prayers, your gifts, your study, and your service? **I WILL.**

### **PRAYER** (by pastor)

Almighty God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people, all ministers one to another, and for mysteriously transforming us into the gathered body of Christ, the church universal. We thank you for choosing to add to our number sisters and brothers to share in faithful ministry in this time and place, giving testimony to new life rising from our death experiences. Holy Spirit, move us into deeper forms of relationship and communion, so that our ministries of love for one another may be tangible means of experiencing the presence and personhood of the risen and living Christ. All honor and glory we give to you, our Triune God, both now and forever more. Amen.

*Please join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate our newest members during our fellowship time with cupcakes and refreshments.*

## **The Practice of Gratitude**

*In response to God's Word and remembering all things come from God, we offer with thanks a portion of that which God has entrusted to us. The ushers will collect God's tithes and our offerings. For those who have given in other forms, there are cards in the pew racks that you may use as a tangible act of thanks. No matter what is physically offered back to God, may we spiritually place our hearts, and our very lives, in God's hands, to be re-shaped for ministry in Christ, furthering God's kingdom here on earth.*

**Offering Music:** "Make a Joyful Noise"      *Henry H. and Eddie H., duet  
by Sally Albrecht*

**\*Offertory: GTG 609** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"  
*(TUNE: Lasst Uns Erfreuen)*

**\*Offertory Prayer**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **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.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned 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.  
Amen.**

**\*Sung response: GTG 826** "Lift High the Cross"

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude:** "Thine is the Glory"      *arr. by Robert J. Hughes*

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YT First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac

## PRAYERS

Brian C.	Andy L.
Pat D.	Phyllis M.
Gib D.	Sally S.
Arnold L.	*Lynn K.
Jesse F.	*Ashley K.
Liam A.	*Cathie
Burt M.	*Mike S.
Marie L.	*Dale F.
Chastity G. and Joan S.	*Karen & David H.
Bob B.	*Lorele C.
Wendy W.	*Laura C.

The names with an asterisk (\*) are not church members. However, a church member has requested they be lifted in prayer.

If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before/after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

### Giving

You can give online at [www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org). (Click on 'Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check, on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.

Please take a moment to thank those who help make our service run smoothly. Because of them, we can worship God well.

### Weekly Statistics

DATE	ATTENDANCE	WEEKLY INCOME	NOTES
24-Mar	112	\$5,542.37	OFFERINGS/TITHES
		\$4,500.00	"PAVE THE WAY"--OFFERINGS
03/18--03/22/2024		\$781.00	VANCO-ONLINE OFFERINGS
		\$60.00	"PAVE THE WAY"-VANCO 03/18--03/22/2024
		<b>\$10,883.37</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK</b>
3/24/2024	5		HOUSEHOLDS
			5 HOUSEHOLDS VIEWED THE ZOOM SERVICE FOR 03/24/2024
3/24/2024			<b>Pave The Way Goal-\$50,000. What we have so far-\$21,435.</b>



April Deacon of the Month  
Orv Kamphuis

April Elder of the Month  
Joanne Marchionda

### **This Week at Church**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>03.31.2024</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
7:45-8:45am		Easter Breakfast
9:00-10:00am		Worship
10:15		Fellowship Time – Honoring New Members
10:15-11:15am		Easter Celebration – for children
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 1</b>	
10:00-11:30am		Staff Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 3</b>	
8:00-9:00am		Men’s Breakfast
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 4</b>	
10:00-11:00am		Growing Connections Planning
12:00-3:30pm		Flying Geese Quilting Guild
1:00-2:00pm		Serving Team
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 6</b>	
<b>All Day</b>		<b>Feed My Starving Children</b>
9:00-12:00pm		Table Tennis
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 7</b>	
9:00-10:00am		Worship / Communion
10:15am		Bible Class (Third Grade & Older + Parent/Guardian) (Gathering Room)
10:15am		Fellowship Time
10:15-11:15am		Growing Connections
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adults - Mahala's Hope presented by Alicia Mattingly</li><li>• 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Teaching/Attending Classes</li><li>• 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Room 3</li><li>• Preschool – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Room 8</li></ul>
6:00-7:30pm		Boy Scout Troop 702 Committee Meeting



## In Memory

Dan & Susan Baker

Camdon, Bud, Kathy, Ken & Rick Baker  
Bill Sr., Clair Ann, Bill Jr., Terry Rowe

Sheryl & Henry Brown

Our Parents, brother, & great-nephew

Winifred & Alex Caramanidis &  
Family

G. Ward Laiten

Henry Chang

Ms. June Chen

John & Laurie Christie

Tom Leestma & Corliss Christie

The Hierl Family

Sue Hierl

Bonnie Hughes

Jack Hughes / Tom & Joanne Karuhn

Wendy Johnson

Roy Johnson

Larry, Carol, Bob, Tami,  
Grace & Sophia Merrill

Jeffrey L. Merrill

Larry, Carol & Bob Merrill

Bob & Eileene Merrill

Kay Mullins

Harold & Jo Boekenhauer  
Rhonda Mullins Brewer

Jolene & Heather Schry

Rick Schry / Barbara & Bowe LeFevre  
Jodelle Richter

Lew & Carol Smith

Our Parents

Scott & Jennifer Zander

Our Loved Ones

## In Celebration

Jim & Judy Dassow

Family

Nancy & Jerry Hilbert

Our Family