

May 4, 2025; 9:00 am Third Sunday of Easter

## 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 KFIZ, 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.*

**Prelude: "Here I am Lord"**

*arr. by Fred Bock*

**Welcome & Announcements**

*Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin*

**Ringing of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ**

**\*Call to Worship**

*Friede K.*

The journey of faith is a journey through life.

**We are all pilgrims, travelers, making our way.**

We sojourn on the pathway of the saints.

**We walk the same highway and follow the same landmarks.**

But for each generation, in each place and time, and for each soul who travels this way, the road seems different. Today, we celebrate tomorrow's leaders, the heroes of a history yet to be made.

**We reach out to them and invite them to join us on the journey.**

As they walk beside us, we may tell them our stories,  
but we may not tell them the way.

**It is a quest they must follow by themselves.**

We can tell them of our questions,  
but the answers must come from within their own hearts.

**We celebrate a new generation of faith,  
a new branch, with its leaves about to blossom!**

As we all worship God together, let us make a place for them.

**The family of Christ is their family, too!**

**\* Opening Prayer**

*Friede K.*

Holy God, time and again you have taken rootless people with no identity and called them to become servants of you and your will. Do likewise with us: that, despite our faults and limitations, we may become and remain instruments of your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**\*Sung Response: GTG 69** “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

Henry H.

**\*Call to Confession**

Mason L.

Today, we celebrate the choice to follow Jesus Christ. We want to live with compassion, kindness, gentleness, patience, and self-control. But it’s not easy. Let us confess our sins of wandering away from God’s call...

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Mason L.

**Gracious and faithful God, we seek to follow you. We strive to serve you. We want to be filled with your Holy Spirit. In spite of our longing, we stumble and struggle. We do things we should not do, and we fail to do the things we should. We harm ourselves and others and your good creation. Most of all, in our failings and shortcomings, we hurt you.**

*Silent Confession*

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

Forgive us, Lord Jesus. **Grant us strength and courage to be the people you would have us be. Help us to accept your grace and forgiveness. Fill us with your Spirit and abide in us. Let our lives bear witness to your steadfast love and faithfulness, in Jesus’ name.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Mason L.

God’s love is more pure and more powerful than we will ever understand. This amazing love is what sent God to earth to live, to die, to be resurrected and to ascend for you and for me. God’s unconditional love shines on us and through us to others. The blindness is removed from our eyes and our hearts. We are given the joy of knowing and serving the risen Lord in all that we say, think and do. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

**\*Sharing God’s Peace**

Mason L.

Hear these instructions from Ephesians 4, “Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together.” 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 9:1-20 (Common English Bible)**      *Lorelei C.*  
page 127 in the pew Bible (NRSV), page 1336 (CEB)

Meanwhile, Saul was still spewing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest, seeking letters to the synagogues in Damascus. If he found persons who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, these letters would authorize him to take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. During the journey, as he approached Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven encircled him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why are you harassing me?"

Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

"I am Jesus, whom you are harassing," came the reply. "Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do."

Those traveling with him stood there speechless; they heard the voice but saw no one. After they picked Saul up from the ground, he opened his eyes but he couldn't see. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind and neither ate nor drank anything.

In Damascus there was a certain disciple named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

He answered, "Yes, Lord."

The Lord instructed him, "Go to Judas' house on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias enter and put his hands on him to restore his sight."

Ananias countered, "Lord, I have heard many reports about this man. People say he has done horrible things to your holy people in Jerusalem. He's here with authority from the chief priests to arrest everyone who calls on your name."

The Lord replied, "Go! This man is the agent I have chosen to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the way as you were coming here. He sent me so that you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Instantly, flakes fell from Saul’s eyes and he could see again. He got up and was baptized. After eating, he regained his strength.

He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days. Right away, he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues. “He is God’s Son,” he declared.

**Gospel Reading: John 21:1-19 (Common English Bible)**

*Friede K.*

page 115 in the pew Bible (NRSV), page 1322 (CEB)

Later, Jesus himself appeared again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. This is how it happened: Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two other disciples were together. Simon Peter told them, “I’m going fishing.”

They said, “We’ll go with you.” They set out in a boat, but throughout the night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn’t realize it was Jesus.

Jesus called to them, “Children, have you caught anything to eat?”

They answered him, “No.”

He said, “Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” So they did, and there were so many fish that they couldn’t haul in the net. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself (for he was naked) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they weren’t far from shore, only about one hundred yards.

When they landed, they saw a fire there, with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you’ve just caught.” Simon Peter got up and pulled the net to shore. It was full of large fish, one hundred fifty-three of them. Yet the net hadn’t torn, even with so many fish. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples could bring themselves to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread, and gave

it to them. He did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

Simon replied, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” Jesus asked a second time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Simon replied, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.” He asked a third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was sad that Jesus asked him a third time, “Do you love me?” He replied, “Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. I assure you that when you were younger you tied your own belt and walked around wherever you wanted. When you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and another will tie your belt and lead you where you don’t want to go.” He said this to show the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. After saying this, Jesus said to Peter, “Follow me.”

**Children’s Time**

*Mason L.*

**Sung response: GTG 729 “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”**

**Sermon: “Draw From The Light You Must”**

*CONFIRMANDS*

## **Service of Confirmation**

**Presentation of the Confirmation Class**

*Jennifer Zander*

Lorelei C—Jolene S

Friede K—Mike W

Mason L—Dick S

## **Class Statement of Faith**

*Lorelei C.*

**We believe in the Triune: God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe in God, who created the universe and still continues to create. God tasked us with taking care of this universe and we should cherish it.**

**We believe in Jesus, who sacrificed himself for our sins. He was a teacher of God's word, teaching us to have complete faith in God.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who guides us on our faith journey, comforting us and showing us the right path.**

## **Questions of Faith and Commitment**

*Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin*

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 gifts you bring to us. As you join with us in the worship and mission of this family of faith, 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 from Holy Scripture from 1 Peter 2:9:

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the One who called you out of darkness into God's marvelous light.

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**I 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?

**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.**

**QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

- 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.**
- Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior? **I DO.**
- Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love and compassion? **I WILL.**
- 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.**

**Congregational Question**

*Dave E.*

Leader: Members of this congregation, in receiving these new members, do you promise before God and before them, to give your love and encouragement, diligently striving to incorporate them in the life of this congregation that they may grow in the Christian life and commitment?

**Congregation: WE DO.**

**Confirmation Prayer**

*Friede K.*

**Loving God, we praise You for calling us to be one people, united in Christ and knit together by Your Spirit. We count it all joy that You have chosen to enlarge our family by calling these sisters and brothers to a common faith. Lord, establish them in Your Truth and guide them by Your Spirit, that together with all Your people, they may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, and with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.**

**Blessing and Anointing**

*Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin*

**Welcome**

**Charge and Prayer**

*Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin*

## We Respond to God's Word

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Friede K.*

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

*\* The word "catholic" means "relating to the church universal"*

### **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 action of gratitude to God. No matter what we return to God in material forms, 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:** "Take My Life and Let it Be"      *arr. by Carol Tornquest*

**\*Offertory:** GTG 240 "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" (refrain only)

**\*Offertory Prayer**



## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**GTG 507** “Come to the Table of Grace”

*(Remain seated, we sing this song as the table is being prepared for communion)*

### **INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

This is neither a Presbyterian table, nor even the church’s table. This is the Lord’s table. It is prepared for those who love the Lord and for those who desire to love him more. All who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome to share in this meal.

### **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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...**

Joining our voices with those from around the world, we pray as you taught us, saying...

### **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.**

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD – (words of institution)**

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

### **SHARING OF THE MEAL**

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.  
Come, share in the mystery of this holy meal.

**The Bread of Life**

**The Cup of Salvation**

### **Music during communion:**

**GTG 203** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill us with Your Love”

“Open the Eyes of My Heart” arr. by Phillip Keveren

### **PRAYER OF THANKS**

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

**\*Sending Song GTG 80** “You Shall Go out with Joy”

**\*Taking the Light of Christ into the World**

**\*Benediction**

*Lorelei C.*

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you:  
Wherever he may send you;  
May he guide you through the wilderness:  
Protect you through the storm;  
May he bring you home rejoicing:  
At the wonders he has shown you;  
May he bring you home rejoicing:  
Once again into our doors.

**Postlude: “May the Force Be with You”**

*by John Williams*

## Prayers of the People

Anna J* (Katy J. mom)	Jack K* (Jolene S BIL)	<b>Mary C-A.*</b>
Arnold L.	James P.* (Ruth P. friend)	Paige T.
Bob & Ollive B.	Jesse F.	Pass Family
Brian C.	Joan K.* (Marcus A. mom)	Pat D.
Chastity G. & Joan S.	Kathy A* (Kevin B sister)	Pat M.* (Bonnie H sister)
Corinne C.	Kathy G.	Paul W.
Dick* (Laurie C uncle)	Liam A.	Qualine S.* (Jodi A mom)
Elias B.* (Laurie C grandson)	Lindsay* (Bill/Mary daughter)	Rod M* (Mary/Dan R friend)
Gib D.	<b>Lynn M.</b>	Sherry M.
Pete D.	Marie L.	Steven B.* (Kevin B nephew)

**Sue B. on the death of her brother Steve R.**

**Laurie C. on the death of her aunt Maryann.**

The names in **bold** are new to the prayer list. The names with an asterisk (\*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to ask that they be lifted in prayer. Prayer request cards are available in the Prayer Box in the Narthex, in the church pews, or online ([click here](#)). You can place your prayer request in the offering plate or the lock box at the church office door. For electronic prayer requests, please complete the form and click submit. If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

**WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR APRIL 27,2025**

Individuals in Person: 103

Zoom Households: 8

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
4.27.25	\$ 2801.05	Tithes/Offerings
	\$ 235.00	Special Offerings
4.21-25.25	\$ 881.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	\$ 60.00	Vanco Special Offerings
	<hr/>	
	<b>\$ 3977.05</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK</b>

**Financial Giving and Gratitude**

You can give online at [www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org) Giving page. (Click on 'Online 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.

**GETTING CONNECTED:**

Office Phone

920.922.0425

Office Email

[fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org)

Website

[www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org)

Breeze Subdomain: [FDLFirstPresb](http://FDLFirstPresb)

Facebook [First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

YouTube [First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

**Deacons of the Month:** Amber Summeril & Wendy Peachey

**Elder of the Month:** Deb Cooley

**STAFF:**

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin

[pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org)

Jennifer Zander

[jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org)

Kris Bartelt

[kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org)

Mary Robotka

[mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org)

## **This Week**

### **Sunday**

9:00-10:00am  
10:15-11:15am  
  
10:15-11:15am  
10:15-11:15am  
6:00-7:30pm

### **May 4 Confirmation Sunday with Communion**

Worship  
Fellowship Time-Special Host Sunday-  
Deacon Compassion Fund  
Sunday School  
Growing Connections- Sermon Discussions  
Boy Scout Committee Meeting

### **Monday**

9:00-10:00am  
1:00-2:30pm

### **May 5**

Staff Meeting  
Deacons Meeting

### **Tuesday**

8:00-5:00pm  
7:00-8:00pm

### **May 6**

Flying Geese Quilters  
Feed My Starving Children Planning Meeting

### **Wednesday**

8:00-9:00am  
8:00-5:00pm  
1:00-5:30pm  
4:00-5:00pm

### **May 7**

Men's Breakfast  
Flying Geese Quilters  
Blood Drive  
Handbell Rehearsal

### **Thursday**

8:00-5:00pm

### **May 8**

Flying Geese Quilters

### **Sunday**

9:00-10:00am  
10:15-11:15am  
10:15-11:15am  
10:15-11:15am

### **May 11**

Worship  
Fellowship Time  
Sunday School  
Growing Connections-Influential Women in Our Lives

### **Looking Ahead**

Graduate Sunday	May 18
Congregational Meeting	May 18
Loaves and Fishes	May 28