

Third Sunday of Easter: May 4, 2025



Connecting People to Jesus, Cultivating Meaningful Lives, and Contributing to God's
Kingdom Work, Together



320 Montrose Drive, Folsom, CA 95630

Third Sunday of Easter: May 4th, 2025

Welcome

Song of Invocation

Christ Is Risen He Is Risen Indeed

How can it be the One who died
Has borne our sin through sacrifice
To conquer every sting of death
Sing sing hallelujah

For joy awakes as dawning light
When Christ's disciples lift their eyes
Alive He stands their Friend and King
Christ Christ He is risen

Christ is risen He is risen indeed
Oh sing hallelujah
Join the chorus sing with the redeemed
Christ is risen He is risen indeed

Where doubt and darkness once had been
They saw Him and their hearts believed
But blessed are those who have not seen
Yet sing hallelujah

Once bound by fear now bold in faith
They preached the truth and power of grace
And pouring out their lives they gained
Life life everlasting

Christ is risen He is risen indeed
Oh sing hallelujah
Join the chorus sing with the redeemed

Christ is risen He is risen indeed

The power that raised Him from the grave
Now works in us to powerfully save
He frees our hearts to live His grace
Go tell of His goodness

Christ is risen He is risen indeed

Oh sing hallelujah

Join the chorus sing with the redeemed

Christ is risen He is risen indeed (repeat)

He is risen

He's alive He's alive

Heaven's gates are opened wide

He's alive He's alive

Now in heaven glorified

Ed Cash, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty
CCLI Song #6399205/CCLI License #94716

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

[P] In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] **Amen.**

[P] Our help is in the name of the Lord,

[C] **who made heaven and earth.**

[P] If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

[C] **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** **Amen.**

Scripture of the Week (SoW and Grow): Psalm 103:13

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

Stand

Sharing of the Peace

Following the absolution, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Service of the Word

In the service of the Word, God grants us His grace through the reading and preaching of His Word. Wherever His Word is, there He promises to be (Matt 18:20). The words of Holy Scripture are to make [us] wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15).” They do this but not by simply talking about Jesus but giving Jesus to us who crucified for our sins and raised for our justification. The Word of God is the Word of Life.

Introit

Psalm 145:4–7, 9; antiphon: v. 10

All your works shall give thanks to you, | O LORD,*
and all your saints shall | bless you!
One generation shall commend your works to an- | other,*
and shall declare your | mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your | majesty,*
and on your wondrous works, I will | meditate.
They shall speak of the might of your | awesome deeds,*
and I will declare your | greatness.
They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant | goodness*
and shall sing aloud of your | righteousness.
The LORD is | good to all,*
and his mercy is over all that | he has made.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
All your works shall give thanks to you, | O LORD,*
and all your saints shall | bless you!

Kyrie

LSB 204



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 9:1–22

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 30; antiphon: vv. 11a, 12b

¹I will extol you, O LORD, for you have | drawn me up*
and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.

²O LORD my God, I cried to | you for help,*
and you have | healed me.

³O LORD, you have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.

⁴Sing praises to the LORD, O | you his saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.

⁵For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a | lifetime.*

Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the | morning.

⁶As for me, I said in my pros- | perity,*
“I shall nev- | er be moved.”

⁷By your favor, O LORD,
you made my mountain | stand strong;*
you hid your face;
I | was dismayed.

⁸To you, O | LORD, I cry,*
and to the Lord I plead for | mercy:

⁹“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down | to the pit? *
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your | faithfulness?
¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and be merci- | ful to me! *
O LORD, be my | helper!”
¹¹You have turned for me my mourning into | dancing; *
you have loosed my sackcloth
and clothed me with | gladness,
¹²that my glory may sing your praise and not be | silent. *
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for- | ever!

Epistle

Revelation 5:1–14

¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God

from every tribe and language and people and nation,
¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Matthew 28:16–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;

**and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

835 On Galilee's High Mountain

- 1 On Galilee's high mountain
Christ gave the great command
In words of strength and promise
Which all can understand:
"All pow'r to Me is given
To do what I shall choose;
Therefore I send My children,
Their witness I will use."

- 2 The Lord who, born of Mary,
Came down as man and died,
Who preached to all who listened,
For us was crucified—
This Lord, our living brother,
In pow'r at God's right hand,
Has chosen us to carry
His truth to ev'ry land.
- 3 His strength within my weakness
Will make me bold to say
How His redeeming power
Transforms my stubborn clay;
His touch of fire ignites me,
With courage I am sent,
My tongue-tied silence broken,
With grace made eloquent.
- 4 And not alone to nations
In faraway retreats,
But ev'rywhere I broadcast
His love through crowded streets:
The lives that my life touches,
However great or small—
Let them through me see Jesus,
Who served and saved us all.
- 5 That ev'ryone He chooses,
For reasons of His own,
Will find in Christ his calling
To live His love alone.
His presence always leads us

Till time no more shall be;
Christ's strength, His love, His comfort
Give us His victory.

△6 Lord, gather all Your children,
Wherever they may be,
And lead them on to heaven
To live eternally
With You, our loving Father,
And Christ, our brother dear,
Whose Spirit guards and gives us
The joy to persevere.

Text: Henry L. Lettermann, 1932–96

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Sermon “Make Disciples of All Nations” -Pastor Fung Lo

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Sit

Offering Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Be Thou my Wisdom and Thou my true Word

I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

High King of heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my Vision O Ruler of all

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Service of the Sacrament

Grace upon grace. Having received God's grace through the Word and promises of Jesus, God now serves us grace by feeding us His Son's body and blood which is true food and true drink (John 6:55)" for the forgiveness of sins. In this portion of the service, we gather with angelic hosts and the saints triumphant where Jesus promises to be: in this meal of bread and wine. It is bread and wine set within God's Word and bound to it (Luther's Large Catechism)."

We confess that our Lord Jesus Christ has instituted the Lord's Supper to be a Sacrament, a means of grace. In, with, and under the elements of bread and wine are the true body and blood of Jesus as he has spoken. His body and blood are set aside for his baptized disciples to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your confession and you desire the gifts, come and receive what's meant for you.

If you hold to a different confession, are unsure of what this meal is, or are unbaptized, but desire the gifts, please talk with pastor after service about our formation process. In the meantime, we invite you to come up and cross your arms over your chest at the table in order to receive a blessing.

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C 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 Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C **Amen.**

641 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ref You satisfy the hungry heart

With gift of finest wheat.

Come give to us, O saving Lord,

The bread of life to eat.

1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
They know and heed his voice;

- So when You call Your fam'ly, Lord,
We follow and rejoice. Refrain
- 2 With joyful lips we sing to You
Our praise and gratitude
That You should count us worthy, Lord,
To share this heav'nly food. Refrain
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share
The blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
Our oneness in the Lord? Refrain
- 4 The myst'ry of Your presence, Lord,
No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain
Comes in our hearts to dwell. Refrain
- 5 You give Yourself to us, O Lord;
Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in Your name
In truth and charity. Refrain

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97

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In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend
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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in lead the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, The God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Go Out, Go Out

Go out go out to all the world
And tell the Good News
Tell the Good Good News

Praise the LORD
Praise the LORD all you nations
Glorify him
Glorify him you peoples

Go out go out to all the world
And tell the Good News
Tell the Good Good News

Steadfast
Steadfast is his kindness toward us
And the faithfulness

Of the LORD endures
Go out go out to all the world
And tell the Good News
Tell the Good Good News

Go out go out to all the world
And tell the Good News
Tell the Good Good News

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Serving Him this Week

Worship Leader	Pastor Daniel Vang, Pastor Fung Lo
Elders	Eric Baer
Musicians	Mount Olive Musicians
Readers	Bruce Betts, Eric Baer, Norma Ceccardi , Andrew Donnelley, Karla Lardner, Heather Hoffman
Ushers	Norm and Karen Benedict
Altar Guild	Gail Zittel

CONNECT

Sunday Service with Communion

Please join us for Sunday service at 10am. If you are not able to join us in person, our Sunday Services will be available on YouTube or Facebook. You can access the links on our website at www.mountolivefolsom.com.

Sunday School

The last week of 9am Sunday School for the school year will be May 18th.

Classes will be on hiatus for the Summer but feel free to grab a Blessing Activity Bag in the Narthex or utilize the Nursery during Summer Services. Lessons will resume in the Fall starting August 10th, with a time change to 10am during Sunday Worship. Sunday School teachers still needed, please reach out to Elisse (916)216-8722 or council.educ.molc@gmail.com Thank you so much to this year's Sunday School teachers Alex Vang, Kristina Drain, Elisse Tweet & Mia Hoffman!

Sunday Bible Study

Come and gather with us at 9am to learn more about the Word of God.

Sacramento Youth

May 17th from 4-6pm.

We will be gathering at Faith Lutheran Church as usual. Come and join us!
Contact Pastor Daniel Vang for more information.

Christian Fellowship Lunch

The next fellowship lunch will be at noon on May 15. Please plan to join us! All ages are welcome! Feel free to contact Norma Ceccardi at 530-401-8055 if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

CULTIVATE

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies, we would like to invite you to our Tuesday Bible Study at 10am at 110 Dyrell Way in Folsom. We are beginning to study the 2nd part of the Gospel of Matthew. For more information, please call Inge at 916-983-0351.

LWML

LWML cookies sale "Bites for Mites and Mt. Olive Youth" to be held right after church on Sunday the 4th of May in the annex. Come and buy your favorite cookies, gingerbread hearts, and other assorted goodies and support the 2024-2026 LWML mission grants and the Mt. Olive Youth headed to the 2025 LCMS youth gathering July 19-23 in New Orleans, LA. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to these two groups. Plan on checking out the assortment of goodies for the upcoming "Mother's Day" and purchase a sweet treat for yourself or your loved ones. Mt. Olive's Women in Mission greatly appreciate everyone's support of this event. For questions, please talk to Lana Sullivan or Karen Fontaine Benedict, thank you.

CONTRIBUTE

Easter Lilies

Thank you to all who contributed a beautiful Easter Lily to adorn our altar for our Easter services. Please feel free to pick up your plan from the back classroom in the sanctuary.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, please feel free to call the office to add it to the prayer chain as well as the Prayer Request/Praise section of the weekly announcements.

Online Giving

There are two convenient ways to give online. Either by using the "Joyful Response Giving" on the website or via Paypal. Simply log on to your Paypal Account, select "SEND" and type in Mount Olive Lutheran Church of Folsom California. We always accept checks, but we do have a limit as to how many we can deposit monthly, so if online giving is an option for you, rest assured, it is easy, safe and secure.

SOW and Grow

Week of May 4, 2025 (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Psalm 103:13: *As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.*

Row 32

The bible coding color is red for love, kindness, mercy, compassion, peace, and grace

A sudden fall. A skinned knee. A quivering wail. We've all experienced this scenario in some fashion, whether we were on the hurting or the comforting end. The young child who looks to her father for help from the shock of pain is an example of how God's people are to look to Him for comfort. Pain is a messy business. Have you ever looked into the face of a sobbing person?

Stared in the mirror when you were the one crying? It's a visceral, vulnerable sight – face red and tear-stained, mouth open, inhibitions gone.

To see our child in such a state usually brings about a helpless rush of tenderness and compassion. We want to comfort and protect. We want to take away the pain. In the Gospel of Luke, we see our Lord responding similarly. He and his disciples come to the small town of Nain and witness a funeral procession. The dead man is the son of a widow – her only source of support. She has no husband. And now she has no son. She is in desperate grief with an uncertain future; the townspeople mourn with her. “When the Lord saw her,” Luke tells us, “He had compassion upon her and said to her,

‘Do not weep’” (Luke 7:13). In Greek, this word compassion is *splagchnizomai*, literally meaning, “his gut moved.” In answer to her grief, He comes forward and touches the platform where the corpse lies. In Jewish terms, this makes Him unclean. His next words echo those He speaks at Lazarus' tomb: “Young man, I say to you, arise” (Luke 7:14). In other words, Be resurrected! Just as He touched death for this woman, removing her grief and pain with His word of power, He has touched death for you, removing its sting by His three days in the tomb. Death could not hold Him,

nor can it hold you! He has given you a new birth in Baptism, through which “you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Rom. 8:15). In Christ, God is no longer only your Creator; He is now your Father, making you an heir of His compassion, grace, and glory (Rom. 8:17). In Hebrew, the word “fear” in the context of our SOW verse this week is better translated as “trust.” Just as the child with the skinned knee trusts that her father will help and comfort her, in Christ, you can trust your heavenly Father's care for you amid the skinned knees, the diagnoses, the troublesome relationships, and the toils of this earthly life. Give Him your pain and mess, trusting that He is with you as you "walk through the valley of the shadow of death" (Ps. 23:4a).

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank You for the compassion and mercy You have already shown me. Forgive me when I do not trust You as I ought. Help me to cast my burdens upon You, to trust that You are with me, and to trust that You have made me an heir to Your Kingdom in Christ. Through His Spirit and in His name I pray, Amen.

Psalm 103:13