



**Seventh & James Baptist Church**  
**May 4, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.**  
**The Third Sunday of Easter**

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Meditation**      “Toccata on *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*”      (AZMON)  
Alfred Fedak

**Welcome and Call to Worship**      Leslie Rosencrans

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here....

**Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship**

One: For no matter who you are or where you’ve been, you matter to God and to us.

**Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.**

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

**Choral Summons**      “God So Loved the World”      John Stainer

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,  
That whoso believeth in Him  
Should not perish, but have everlasting life.  
God so loved the world.

**Processional Hymn, No. 205**      “Christ Is Alive”

**Litany of Expectations**      Matt Rosencrans

One: Surprising God, keep us expectant, open, sensitive, alive. When we expect a desert, give us cool rain. When we expect anger, give us calm.

**Many: Give us music when we expect trouble. Give us silence when we expect noise.**

One: When we expect loneliness, give us memories. When we expect questions, give us prayers.

**Many: Give us sleep when we expect restlessness. Give us hopefulness when we expect helplessness.**

One: When we expect emptiness, give us tears. When we expect bread and wine, give us Christ.

**Many: Give us sisters and brothers when we expect friends. Give us strength when we expect exhaustion.**

One: When we expect comfort, give us challenge. When we expect fairness, give us justice.

**Many: Give us a feast when we expect a meal. Give us community when we expect a crowd.**

One: When we expect religion, give us a spirited church. When we expect death, give us resurrection.

**All: Give us flashes of your glory when we expect commonplace. Give us extravagance when we expect enough. Surprise us with your overwhelming grace.**

—Adapted from *Prayers & Litanies for the Christian Season*  
by Sharlande Sledge, p. 83

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Matt Rosencrans

**Reading from the Acts**

*Acts 9:1-20*

Paula Hoover  
Holly Land

**Reading from the Revelation**

*Revelation 5:11-14*

Aaron Ramos

# Hymn

## “See What a Morning”



See, what a morn - ing, glo - rious - ly bright, with the  
See Ma - ry weep - ing, "Where is He laid?" As in  
One with the Fa - ther, An - cient of Days, Through the

dawn - ing of hope in Je - ru - sa - lem; Fold - ed the grave clothes,  
sor - row she turns from the emp - ty tomb; Hears a voice speak - ing,  
Spir - it who clothes faith with cer - tain - ty, Hon - or and bless - ing,

tomb filled with light, as the an - gels an - nounce, "Christ is  
call - ing her name; It's the Mas - ter, the Lord, raised to  
glo - ry and praise to the King crowned with pow'r and au -

ris - en!" See God's sal - va - tion plan: wrought in  
life a - gain! The voice that spans the years, speak - ing  
thor - i - ty! And we are raised with Him, death is

love, borne in pain, paid in sa - cri - fice, Ful - filled in  
life, stir - ring hope, bring - ing peace to us, Will sound 'til  
dead, love has won, Christ has con - quered; And we shall

Christ, the man, For He lives: Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
He ap - pears, For He lives: Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
reign with Him, For He lives: Christ is ris - en from the dead!

## Gospel Reading

*John 21:1-19*

Scott Turner

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

## The Prayers of God's People

Scott Turner

## Offertory

“Threnody from *Five Bagatelles*”

Carl Vine

Michael Clark, *piano*

*During the offertory, we invite you to prayerfully consider your stewardship of all the resources God is entrusting to you. The work of God at Seventh & James is dependent on the financial generosity and volunteer service of its members and friends. Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship. Join us as you respond to God's call.*

## Doxology

*(sung to LASST UNS ERFREUEN, tune of “All Creatures of Our God and King,” No. 307)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Children's Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.*

*Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

## Responsive Reading of Psalm 30

Daniel Farris

One: I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

**Many: O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**

One: O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

**Many: Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.**

One: For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**Many: As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”**

One: By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

**Many: To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:**

One: “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?

**Many: Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!”**

One: You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

**All: So that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.**

**Anthem**

“Esto Les Digo”

Kinley Lange

Rebecca Walsh, *soprano*

Esto les digo,  
(*This I say to you*)

Si dos de ustedes se ponen en acuerdo aquí en la tierra  
(*If two of you are in one accord here on earth*)

Para pedir algo en oración,  
(*To ask anything in prayer,*)

Mi padre que está en el cielo, se lo dará  
(*My Father which is in heaven, will give it to you*)

Porque donde dos o tres se reúnen en mi nombre,  
(*For where two or three are gathered in my name,*)

Allí estoy yo, en medio de ellos.  
(*There am I, in the midst of them.*)

**Sermon**            “Surprise...and We Still Have to Love Our Enemies”    Erin Conaway  
                               (*Acts 9:1-20*)

## Silent Reflection

God is pleased with those who refuse to fit new experience unquestioningly into traditional teaching about God, who ask radical questions about God, their experience and their traditions, who never let their desire for the truth of God and God's justice be quenched, who are open to new possibilities and surprises even in the sphere of their core convictions, and who above all cry out with integrity before God and resist all attempts to misinterpret, marginalize or stifle that cry.

— David Ford, *Christian Wisdom: Desiring God and Learning in Love*, p. 129

## Hymn of Commitment, No. 499

## “I Surrender All”

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ  
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers  
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

## Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace. Amen.

## Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

## Choral Response

## “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter C. Lutkin

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace,  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, and be gracious;  
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

## Postlude

“Chorale Prelude No. 4, *Gelobt sie Gott*”

Healey Willan

## **Today at Seventh**

**Our Pianist today is** Michael Clark.

**The Rose on the Organ** celebrates the birth of Norah Grace Cawyer, born April 22, to Tannah and Jay Cawyer. Great-Grandparents are Bobbie & Bill DeLoach.

**The Sanctuary Flowers** are given by Faith Kopplin and Vernon Davis in gratefulness for the beauty of worship we experience as a members of Seventh & James.

Hearing devices are available at the sound booth for any who need assistance.

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