

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE:

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

GREETING:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit
Be with you all.

And also with you.

EASTER KYRIE:

Chorus:

L: You've freed us from sin and conquered
death,

ALL: Alleluia.

L: Gave us new life, renewed our breath,

ALL: Alleluia.

L: You are the Way,
the Truth, and the Life, O Lord.

ALL: Alleluia. Alleluia.

Verse: (Leader only)

Risen Lord, our Shepherd true,
You lead us through death into life anew;
Guide us in all that we do,
And bless Your church, forever we worship You;

OPENING PRAYER: (Psalm 23)

Shepherding God,

**you walk with us through life and restore our souls,
comforting us with your presence and guiding us with your wisdom.**

**May your goodness and mercy surround us today and always,
and may we dwell in your loving care forever.**

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: ELW 502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is (vs. 1-4)

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still;
thy cross before to guide me.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: **Alive Alive** (*Sunday Tempe/Gilbert*)

Chorus

Alive alive alive forevermore
My Jesus is alive alive forevermore
Alive alive alive forevermore
My Jesus is alive

Verse

Sing hallelujah sing hallelujah
My Jesus is alive forevermore
Sing hallelujah sing hallelujah
My Jesus is alive

Sat 5pm Tempe: **NO Children's Message**
Sunday Tempe & Gilbert: *Sing at all services*

Bob Singleton
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WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 23 (Responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EASTER GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Christ Is Risen

Refrain

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is risen, praise His name!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

His great love we now proclaim!

Refrain

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is risen, praise His name!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

His great love we now proclaim!

And in this Love we will remain

Verse

See, the stone is rolled away,
the silent tomb could not contain,
Jesus Christ is risen indeed,
He lives and reigns, forevermore!

Text and music: Joni Van Rossum, ©2025

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the

sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON:

"Just Wanna Be a Sheep"

Pastor Andrea Cain

(Sunday Tempe)

"Gatekeeping"

Pastor Thaddeus Book

(Sat 5pm/Gilbert)

SONG OF THE DAY: Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Verse 1

What is our hope in life and death
Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand
What comes apart from His command
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand

Chorus

O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death

Verse 2

What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known

In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ

Verse 3

Unto the grave what will we sing
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore

Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Matthew Merker
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(Sat 5pm/Tempe) RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, trusting in the risen Christ who brings peace and hope.

Good Shepherd, guide your church to listen for your voice and to follow you faithfully. Empower your followers to reach out to those who have not yet heard your call.

Lord, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

Shepherd of peace, bring your peace to our world, especially where there is conflict and division. Guide leaders to seek justice and reconciliation, so that all may dwell in safety and unity. Lord, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

Merciful Savior, bless those who care for the vulnerable, and let your compassion be known through their kindness. Grant healing and hope to all who are sick, suffering, or in distress (especially). Lord, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

Eternal God, give us confidence in your promise of eternal life, and keep us faithful until we join all the saints in your presence. Remind us that you are always with us, leading us home. Lord, in your mercy;

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE:

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share a word of peace with our neighbors.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

The grace of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love.

The Hunger Jar is a love offering and is designated for Gathering Humanity.

You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at www.desertcross.org with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel

OFFERING SONG: Because He Lives (Amen)

Verse 1

I believe in the Son
I believe in the Risen One
I believe I overcome
By the power of His blood

Chorus

Amen amen
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives
Amen amen
Let my song join the one that never ends

Verse 2

I was dead in the grave
I was covered in sin and shame
I heard mercy call my name

He rolled the stone away

Bridge

Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives ev'ry fear is gone
I know He holds my life
My future in His hand

Ending

Because He lives

Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Gloria Gaither, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher, William J. Gaither

CCLI Song #7027887

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OFFERING PRAYER:

Risen Lord,
in this Easter season we thank you for new life.
With gratitude and joy, we offer our gifts—
may they share your hope and love with the world.
Bless all that we give, that your light may shine through us.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE:**

Blessed are you, O God of life and resurrection.
By your Spirit, gather us as your people,
united by the risen Christ,
who broke bread with his friends
and revealed himself in the sharing of a meal.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

This is Christ's table. There is a place for you.
All are welcome.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Come forward to receive the bread and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. All are welcome.

LAMB OF GOD: ELW p.208 - Lamb of God (Setting 10)



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION SONG 1: ELW 523 Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

Refrain

Let us go now to the banquet,
to the feast of the universe.
The table's set and a place is waiting;
come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.

1 I will rise in the early morning;
the community's waiting for me.
With a spring in my step I'm walking
with my friends and my family. *Refrain*

2 God invites all the poor and hungry
to the banquet of justice and good
where the harvest will not be hoarded
so that no one will lack for food. *Refrain*

3 May we build such a place among us
where all people are equal in love.
God has called us to work together
and to share ev'rything we have. *Refrain*

DISTRIBUTION SONG 2: Good Good Father

Verse 1

I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night
You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone

Chorus

You're a Good Good Father
It's who You are
It's who You are
It's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am
It's who I am
It's who I am

Verse 2

I've seen many searching for answers
Far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers

Only You provide
Because You know just what we need
Before we say a word

Bridge

You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

Verse 3

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
Into love love love

Anthony Brown, Pat Barrett
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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Gracious God,

Nourish us by your grace and fill us with Easter joy.

Make us witnesses to your living presence in the world, giving thanks for all your gifts
and sharing your peace with all people through Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor +

And give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 821 Shout to the Lord

1 My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
tower of refuge and strength;
let ev'ry breath, all that I am
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

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DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

**Thank you
for supporting the Desert Cross mission.
Here are the ways you can donate today:**

ONLINE GIVING:



Get your smart phone
and scan the QR-code
with your phone camera

SECURE TEXT GIVING:

Text "GIVE" to
833-636-1502

USPS:

8600 S. McClintock Drive
Tempe, AZ 85284

Flower Donation:

The flowers on the altar in Tempe this weekend are given to say hello to Lin Bourgeois, who watches our livestream services, from her friends at Desert Cross.