

Macon United Methodist Church
190 W Bell Street, Macon, IL 62544; (217) 764-5133
Pastor Terry McDorman; 630-390-0414; accesstogodshouse@gmail.com
May 4, 2025 **Third Sunday of Easter**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Give boundless thanks to God who causes the angels to sing. Give boundless praise to Christ who invites us to follow him. Give boundless glory to the Spirit who makes us one.



RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

for all to remember the glory of the Resurrection!

PRELUDE

GATHERING **Words of welcome and announcements**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Christ has taken the scales from our eyes and turned our mourning into dancing. Rejoice with one another, remembering that the peace of Christ is with you. **The peace of Christ is with you always.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

Lord, we come before you in joy, clothed in the majesty of your glory.

We come to sing your praises.

Like the myriad faithful of old, we proclaim the Lamb to be worthy of blessing, honor, and glory.

We fall down before you in worship. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN**

“Amazing Grace”

(UMH # 378 vs 1, 2, 3)

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Compassionate, glorious God, you hear our cries, and our pleas for help. We may enter the dark of night with weeping, but we wake in the morning with joy, for you hear our petitions and come in our hour of need. As we gather here in the name of your Son, be with us we pray, that we may know the dawn of your mercy, and the sweet taste of your favor. Amen

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Let us lift our prayers in thoughts of praise.

SILENT PRAYER

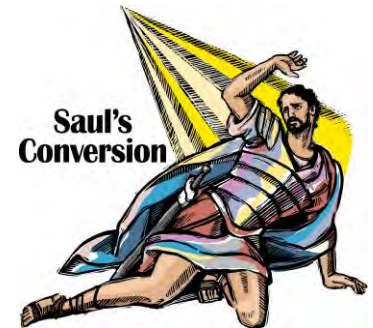
Let us share our doubts with God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 9:1-6 (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."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We are often not the Easter People that we should be, living in the certain knowledge of your great mercy and love. Distracted by the world around us we fail to hear your voice, or hide when faith is challenged as we wander off the path. Forgive us, we pray; restore the love that we first had, a faith that can endure. We will keep our eyes fixed on you, Lord, and with you at our right hand we shall not be shaken.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

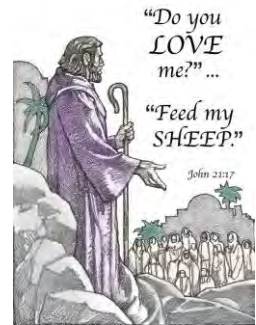
John 21:1-19 (CEB)

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."

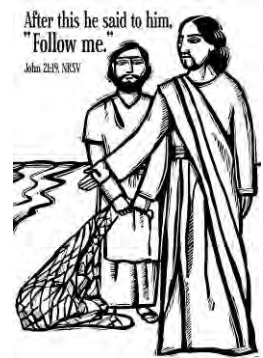
He said, "Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." So they did, and there were so many fish that they couldn't haul in the net. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself (for 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.”



MESSAGE

“You Will Be Told What You Must Do”

Rev. Terry McDorman

HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

(UMH # 369)

INVITATION TO SHARE

The holy One has given us fish and bread for a lifetime. Let us now share from our bounty, that through our gifts, God’s will may be done.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

(UMH # 94)

(you are invited to raise your arms in praise to the Lord)

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!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

Lord, accept these offerings, given with joy as a token of our praise, that they may be used in service to Christ. Thanks be to God.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(sung to the tune “*Here I Am Lord*”)

God be with you all in love, Lift your hearts to God above
It is right and good to give, our thanks and praise.
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power, God of love,
Sing hosanna Christ has come, in God’s own name.

Chorus

People needing, Spirit leading
Jesus feeding all who come to him
Bread for tending cup for mending
Spirit sending us to serve the world.

On the night His life was given
Jesus took the bread of heaven
Thanking God He broke it all, remember me.
Then He took the common cup, new forgiveness lifting up,
Thanking God he gave to all, remember me.

Chorus

People needing, Spirit leading
Jesus feeding all who come to him
Bread for tending cup for mending
Spirit sending us to serve the world.

We remember God in Christ, holy living sacrifice
So like him in thanks and praise ourselves we give.
We embrace his mystery how He died and set us free.
As He rose He’ll come again, in Christ we live.

Chorus

People needing, Spirit leading
Jesus feeding all who come to him
Bread for tending cup for mending
Spirit sending us to serve the world.

Of these gifts of wine and bread, and your people in this place
Pour your spirit gift divine, giving us Christ.
By the Spirit make us one, one with Christ to serve the world
That on earth your will be done “till Christ shall come.

Chorus

People needing, Spirit leading
Jesus feeding all who come to him
Bread for tending cup for mending
Spirit sending us to serve the world.

(1/2 stanza)

Now to you all loving God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Be all glory thanks and praise, for evermore.

Chorus

People needing, Spirit leading
Jesus feeding all who come to him
Bread for tending cup for mending
Spirit sending us to serve the world.

HOLY COMMUNION

As we come to the table of God’s heavenly feast, let us prepare our hearts anew to be in communion with one another and with the risen Christ. All who are able are invited to come forward, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup and partake in the communion with Jesus Christ. All the bread is gluten free. If you are unable to come forward, please advise the usher and the elements will be brought to you.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

Lord Jesus, we slouch in our seats. We sit back and relax. The rush of Easter is over, the excitement which carried us to Easter and to the room where Jesus appeared to the disciples is wearing off. We just aren’t sure what to do now that the journey to the Cross is completed. Help us to understand that the Cross is not our ending point, but rather the pivotal point. Help us to be people of astounding faith, who have seen the light of Resurrection, who know that you have conquered death. Fear cannot claim and bind us. You have released us to serve others and witness to the glorious good news. As we have brought the names of those near and dear to us to you in prayer, help us to feel the rejuvenating power of your love in our lives. Inspire us to move into compassionate ministries to your world. For we ask these things in the name of our Risen Lord. Amen.

***LITANY FOR THE SEASON OF EASTER**

L: Bring to God all the fears and anger you have.

P: God will heal your life.

L: Bring to God the sadness you feel.

P: God will heal your life.

L: Bring to God the loneliness and sorrow.

P: God will heal your life.

L: Do not be afraid, for Christ has called you.

P: Christ brings you new life.

L: Reach out in service and love to others.

P: Christ brings new life to all.

L: Rejoice, sing with joy!

P: God heals us and Christ restores our lives! Let us praise God with our whole hearts. Let us serve God by serving others. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Amazing Grace”

(UMH# 378 vs 4,5,6)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated and silent during the Postlude)

Special thank yous to all those that assisted with worship today.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 33

ATTENDANCE GOAL: 70

Be certain to check the church website, <https://maconilumc.net/> for updated information about the church, events and news. Please use webmaster.maconumc@gmail.com to submit updates or additions to the church website.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESENCE AND SERVICE

Sat. May 10 9:00 am All Church Workday

Sun. May 11 Mother's Day

Sun. May 11 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. May 11 10:00 am Sunday Worship and Zoom Service

Wed. May 14 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting; Pastor's Office

Wed. May 14 7:00 pm Administrative Council Meeting; Pastor's Office

Sun. May 18 8:00 am Men's Breakfast; Fellowship Hall

Sun. May 18 9:00 am Sunday School

Sun. May 18 10:00 am Sunday Worship and Zoom Service

Sun. May 18 11:00 am Worship Committee Meeting

Thur. May 22 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 04 Rev Terry McDorman May 05 Chad Rappe`
May 09 Wayne and Donna Hayes

MISSIONS



Items requested by the food pantry are: Items requested by the food pantry are: Any kind of cereal, cereal bars and/or oatmeal, canned fruit, **canned soup**, canned pasta, shampoo, bar soap and toothpaste. Cash donations are always welcome.

The Pantry is looking for volunteers to help with the Central Illinois food bank deliveries on the first and third Mondays of each month at 9:00 am.