

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service for Third Sunday of Easter**

*May 4, 2025*

**Pre-Service Music:**     *Break Thou the Bread of Life* – Tracey  
Craig McKibben

**Welcome and Announcements:**

**Prelude:** *Jesus Paid It All* – Chuck Sinclair

**Introit #798:**     *All with Joyful Exultation*             Chancel Choir

**Call to Worship** (Psalm 30)

We glorify you, O Lord, for you have lifted us up.

**O Lord, our God, we cried out to you, and you healed us.**

Sing praises to the Lord, O faithful ones, and praise God's holy name.

**For God's anger is but for a moment, but God's favor is for a lifetime.**

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

**O God, you have turned our mourning into dancing!  
Let us worship God!**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Selfless Christ, though we rejected your teachings, you poured out your life for us anyway. In your resurrection, you continue to nourish us with your steadfast love and the power of your Spirit. Enliven our hearts, that we might share the nourishment we have received and feed your people. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn 826:** *Lift High the Cross* (stand)

**Call to Confession**

Risen from the dead, Jesus Christ longs for us to know life in all of its fullness, offering us renewal and refreshment, hope and forgiveness. Let us trust in the promise of Easter as we make our confession.

**Let us confess our sins to God.**

Let us pray:

**Prayer of Confession**

**Generous God, in Jesus you have shown us love, love that seeks, love that suffers, love that survives all things. You call us, even command us, to show that love in our lives. Yet we turn away from what you would have us do. We confess that the ways of love are not our ways. We deny and ignore, hurt and hate, despise and reject. Have mercy on us. Help us to receive your love so that we can love others. Help us to receive your love so that we can love ourselves.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

The resurrection of Jesus shows us the grace of God is stronger than death and the love of God has no boundary. This is good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and restored.  
Thanks be to our God now and forever.**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Glory to God #583:**

**Anthem:** *Together at the Table of the Lord*          John Purifoy

## **Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.**

### **Prayers of the People**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people.

Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings** (please stand)

**Doxology #606:** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

### **Prayer of Dedication:**

**Blessed are you, Maker of all things. As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts, nourish us with this sacrament, and send us to those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Hymn #720:** *Jesus Calls Us* *vs. 1, 2, 4*  
(seated)

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone. Let the heavenly food of the scripture we are about to hear nourish us today in the ways of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Psalm 30

**New Testament Lesson:** Acts 9:1-20

**Gospel Lesson:** John 21:1-19

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**                      *And Along Came Paul*                      Susan Murray

**Communion Hymn #499:** *Bread of the World in Mercy  
Broken*

**Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God.  
We thank you for your steadfast love in spite of our human sin.  
We join with the heavenly choirs and the faithful of every time  
and place to sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising  
you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these  
your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup  
we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and  
forever. **Amen**

Let us pray:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

## **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**    *(take the communion)*

## **Prayer After Communion**

**Gracious Lord, by whose mercy we have proclaimed in word and sacrament the mystery of thy love: help us so to live our lives that we may show forth thy wonders in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn #314:**    *Christ, Be Our Light*    vs. 1, 2, 5

**Benediction** John Birch-www.faithandworship.com

Go in Peace, Live in Love, **Serve the Lord.**

**Postlude:** *Hallelujah! What a Savior* – Pepper Choplin

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