



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Second Sunday of Easter*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Second Sunday of Easter, April 27th**

<b>10:00 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg</a>
--

**RINGING OF THE BELL –** *To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for the service, please observe silence during the prelude.*

**PRELUDE**

Spirit of the Living God     by Daniel Iverson, Setting by John Carter

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

***Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!***

*Praise God in God's sanctuary!*

***Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!***

*Praise God for God's mighty deeds!*

*Praise God according to*

*God's surpassing greatness!*

***Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!***

*Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!*

*Hallelujah!*

***Let us worship God!***

**HYMN #303**

The Day of Resurrection

**OPENING PRAYER** *(Please be seated)*

***O Lord God - our hearts and our minds sing out to you with praise this day. We rejoice in the power that you have unleashed upon the world with the resurrection of Jesus. We thank you for the abiding love that you have bestowed upon us in the promises you have made to him and through him. We come before you, O God, as his servants. We come before you as a resurrection community - as an Easter people - and we ask your holy and transforming presence. Bless us at this hour that we may become what you would have us be and that we might bring honor and glory unto your name and unto the name of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Acts 5:27-32 - The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus**

- 5:27 When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them,
- 5:28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us."
- 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority."
- 5:30 The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.
- 5:31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
- 5:32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

### **Psalms 118:14-29 - Glad songs of victory (Psalter Lesson)** **(UMH Pg. 839) (Please read the bold text)**

- 118:14 The Lord is my strength and my power; the Lord has become my salvation.
- 118:15 **There are joyous songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:** "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly,
- 118:16 the right hand of the Lord is exalted, **the right hand of the Lord does valiantly!"**
- 118:17 I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.
- 118:18 The Lord has chastened me solely, but has not given me over to death.**
- 118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
- 118:20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.**
- 118:21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
- 118:22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.**
- 118:23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 118:24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- 118:25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! **O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!**
- 118:26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

118:27 The Lord is God, who has given us light. **Lead the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar!**

118:28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

**118:29 O give thanks to the Lord, who is good; for God's steadfast love endures for ever!**

**Revelation 1:4-8 - *Jesus Christ, firstborn of the dead (Epistle Reading)***

1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood

1:6 and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1:7 Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. So, it is to be. Amen.

1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

**John 20:19-31 - *Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ (Gospel)***  
***(Please stand as you are able)***

20:19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

20:20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

20:22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

20:23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

20:24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

20:25 So, the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

- 20:26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."
- 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."
- 20:28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"
- 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
- 20:30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.
- 20:31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.*

***P: Thanks be to God.***

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
(Let us offer our silent confessions.)*

***O God, your love is boundless  
and your grace exceeds our imaginations.  
You keep finding ways to be among us,  
even when the doors of our hearts are locked.  
Graciously, you seek us out.  
We cannot hide,  
but we can confess that sin has us in its grip.  
It has led us from your ways  
and corrupted our best intentions,  
tempting us to believe that you don't notice,  
that you aren't even present.  
Correct our vision.  
Cleanse our hearts.  
Create in us a place where we can welcome you  
and receive the fullness  
of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*In grace, we are forgiven.*

*In love, we are freed.*

*In Christ, peace and assurance are ours.*

***In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen!***

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH #887 (Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39)**

*Leader:*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*

*Shall tribulation or distress,*

*or persecution or famine,*

*or nakedness or peril or sword?*

***People:***

***No,***

***In all things we are more than conquerors***

***Through the One who loved us.***

***We are sure that neither***

***death nor life,***

***nor angels, nor principalities,***

***nor things present, nor things to come,***

***nor powers, nor height, nor depth,***

***nor anything else in all creation,***

***will be able to separate us from the love of God***

***in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

***Thanks be to God! Amen***

## **GLORIA PATRI (UMH #70)**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.***

## **HYMN #310**

He Lives

## **OFFERING**

<https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

## **OFFERTORY**

Song by John Carter

**DOXOLOGY #94 - Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

***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 THANKSGIVING**

***O God - you have poured out upon your people in this place the  
riches of both the world and of your grace. Help us to share  
these riches - bless what we offer here today - may it be worthy  
of us and of what you have done for us. We ask it in the name of  
Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE 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. Amen.***

**CLOSING HYMN #351**

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

**POSTLUDE**

Intermezzo in E-flat major, Op. 117, No. 1 by Johannes Brahms

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Flowers on the Altar**

***The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by John and Judy Lefler.***

### **Coffee Hour after Today's Service**

*Please join us in the Dice Hall after today's service for coffee and snacks. This is a great way to see friends and make new ones.*

### **Spring Bible Study**

*The **Spring Bible Study** meets on **Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM** in the **Bill Minnich Conference room**. This is a come as you can Bible Study and a study guide will be provided. It is led by **Don Henderson**. Please reach out to him if you have questions at [bacpac@comporium.net](mailto:bacpac@comporium.net)*

### **The Prayer Ministry**

***They meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the church.***  
*Please e-mail prayer requests to [LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com](mailto:LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com).*

### **AA Meetings Thursday Nights**

***The weekly AA meeting is every Thursday at 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall.***  
*In an effort to honor anonymity please do not go to the Parish building from 4:15 – 6:00 PM.*

## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

***Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions.***

***Please pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery. We pray for Don Scholl, Lysa Riggs' husband who has been diagnosed with throat cancer.***

***Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one. We especially pray for Dan & Kay Johnson, Tom & Kay Blackstock and Don and Nancy Henderson who have recently lost a family member.***

***Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff.***

## **STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS**

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, [marcus61dodson@gmail.com](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com)

Pianist/Organist: Kathy Palmer

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org)

Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 and Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128

Audio/Visual & Livestream Chair: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916

Liturgist: Lysa Riggs