



WESTWOOD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Westwood is a Reconciling in
Christ (RIC) church



JOURNEY INWARD to JOURNEY OUTWARD

Welcome to 11 am Worship at Westwood

April 21, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Westwood is an open, affirming, and inclusive church, welcoming all who seek God.

GATHERING MUSIC "Your Grace is Enough" Matt Maher

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brief moment of silence.

↑ OPENING LITANY

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored,
and supported as citizens of the new creation.

○ Lord our God, we give you thanks for the gift of baptism.

○ Lord our God, we give you thanks for the new life you raise up in us.

**Empower us to be living signs of your new heaven and new earth
as we join your work in the world.**

↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, who calls us Beloved ✝ Jesus who bears the cross,
and the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and acknowledge our brokenness
in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**

We are overwhelmed

by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have

for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused,

known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others

and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away

from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

**Lead us back to you and set us on the path to join your work in the world;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

↑ **OPENING SONG** "The Lord is the Everlasting God" Mvt. II Kenneth Jennings

↑ 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.**

CANTICLE OF WELCOME "Welcome" Mark Miller

CANTOR: Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in, to be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace.

**ALL: Singing welcome. Welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome. The love of God to share,
'cause all of us are welcome here.
All are welcome in this place.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, **creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may hear your call and follow the path of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

ACCLAMATION "Celtic Alleluia" ELW 174 *(Children are invited forward)*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ACCLAMATION "Celtic Alleluia" ELW 174 *(Children leave with leaders for The Message.)*

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 27: 1-3, 13-14

GOSPEL LESSON John 20:19-31

SERMON Pastor Sarah Scherschligt

EASTER P.A.U.S.E. (Pay Attention Until the Spirit Emerges)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST *(Children return to worship.)*

OFFERING "Doubting Thomas" Nickle Creek

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Risen One, **you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

↑ **OPENING SENTENCES**

↑ **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

↑ **LORD'S PRAYER**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC "Remembrance" Matt Maher

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG "We Are" Kari Jobe

PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

○ God, **you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

↑ **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to join God's work in the world. **Thanks be to God!**