

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 25, 2021

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

### Prelude

Welcome, Announcements & Greeting Time      Brice Smith

### \*Easter Proclamation:

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Song #308      “This Joyful Eastertide”      *VRUECHTEN*

### \*Call to Worship

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

**Beloved, let us not love in word or speech alone but in truth and with actions.**

The Good Shepherds leads us and restores our souls.

**By this we know love, that Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.**

And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he commanded us.

**Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him.**

Adapted from 1 John 3:16-24. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Song of Faith      “Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”      WT

**\*Unison Invocation Prayer – God our Father and Good Shepherd of your flock, you have called us by name, you have called us your own. We come today, celebrating your love for us and all people of the world. We come today, thanking you for loving us to the point of laying down your life for us. Spirit of the Living God, move through us, move among us, connect us to your heart as beloved sons and daughters. Give us**

renewed passion for you and your work. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Alleluia #320      “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus”      *HYFRYDOL*

## WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

The First Reading      Acts 4:5-12

The Second Reading      1 John 3:16-24

\*Gospel Reading      John 10:11-18

Responsorial      “One Day Glorious Day”      Worship Team

### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings & Prayer of Dedication

Children’s Message      (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and younger to Junior Church)

**The Prayer of the People and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Message      “I Love My Church: Partners in Prayer”  
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter

## RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

**\*Invitation to Faith and Fellowship –** If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God’s forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

\*Hymn #502      “Be Thou My Vision”      *SLANE*

\*Spoken Benediction & Postlude      \*Please stand if able

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN TODAY

**GOOD NEWS!** God loves you and wants to redeem all people. The Bible outlines the way to become a follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you are a sinner (you have done wrong things). Apologize to God and turn away from harmful behavior and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** - Believe that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross and rose from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Savior (Rescuer and Redeemer) and Lord (Ultimate Leader). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO JESUS** - Tell your family and friends about your new faith in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly announce your decision to be a Christian.

**HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD** – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church, may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor, Moderator, or come forward at a meeting of the congregation. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.



**American Baptist Church USA** – American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico.

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**WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1008 SW Fourth Street | Topeka, KS 66606  
Phone: (785) 233-4241 | [www.wsbc.topeka.org](http://www.wsbc.topeka.org)