

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
APRIL 23, 2023**

**WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

**Prelude** Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

**Welcome and Greeting in Jesus' Name** Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter

**\*Easter Proclamation:** Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

**Ordinance of Holy Baptism** Austin Cripe

**\*Opening (Stand) # 312** "Christ Is Alive" *TRURO*

**\*Call to Worship (Stand)**

Set your faith and hope on God,  
Who has raised Jesus Christ from the dead!

**Though we live as exiles,**

**We praise our God who leads us home.**

In light of baptism and faith in the truth,  
Love one another deeply from the heart.

**Though we have been slaves to sin,**

**We worship Jesus Christ who has set us free to love.**

Truly, you have been born anew,

Not of perishable but of imperishable seed.

**Though we have been fearful and powerless,**

**We follow the Spirit who gives faith and power.**

**To display God's reign upon the earth.**

**Let us worship our triune God.**

†Timothy Matthew Slemmons, "Lightening from the East: Liturgical Elements for Reformed Worship, Year A." ©2014. Cascade Books, Eugene, OR. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

**\*Opening Prayer (Stand)**

**Song of Faith** "Resurrecting" **Worship Team**

**Proclamation of Faith & Forgiveness** **The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter**

**Alleluia #316** "Alleluia" *ALLELUIA*

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD**

Scripture Reader: Laurie Dewey

**The First Reading** Acts 2:14a, 36-41

**The Second Reading** 1 Peter 1:17-23

**\*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Stand)** Luke 24:13-35

**\*Responsorial (Stand) "Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord"** **Worship Team**

**\*Greeting and Sharing Peace with Family and Neighbors (Stand)**

**Children's Sermon** (Kids 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and Younger can walk to Children's Church)

**Announcements & Prayers of the Community 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, the power, and the glory forever.

**Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations** - Worshippers are invited to give their tithes, gifts, and offerings to the Lord.

**Prayer of Dedication**

**A Prayer of Illumination & The Message**

**The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister**

**WE RESPOND 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.

**\*Closing Hymn (Stand) #** "God's Family" **Worship Team**

**\*Spoken Benediction**

**\*Postlude** Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Organist

## HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

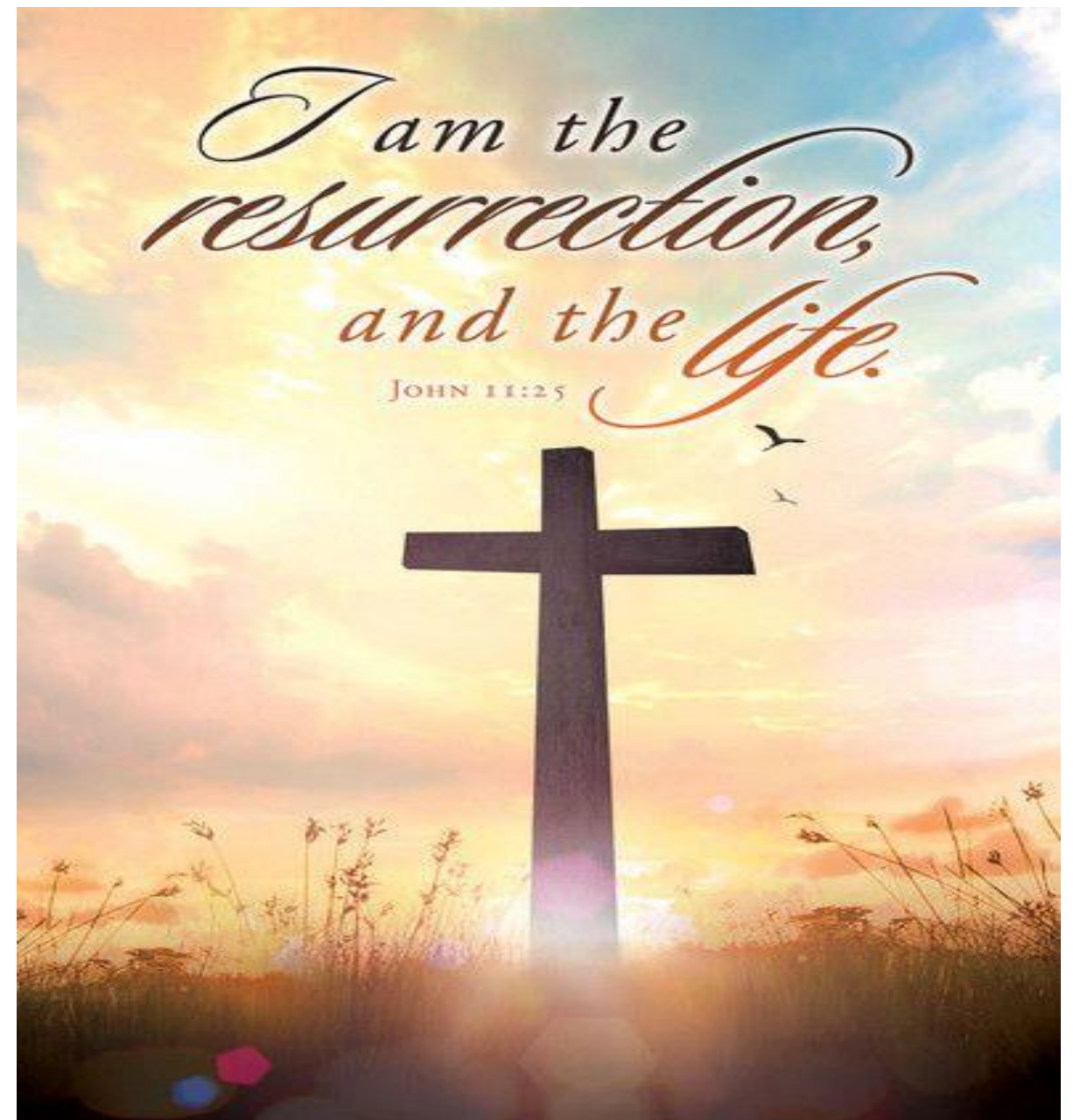
**GOOD NEWS!** God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) which have hurt God and others. 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** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus 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 fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer and Redeemer (Savior) and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (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 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico. [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org)



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