

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

100 Pitney Rd // Absecon, NJ 08201

609.641.1265 // abseconumc.com

abseconumc@comcast.net

The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

ReverendDaveLedford@gmail.com

**Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist**



1 Am the Good Shepherd

May 3, 2026

Today's Lay Reader: David Wade

Welcome

Prelude

Prelude on "Holy Manna"

Peter Pindar Stearns

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: **We come, ready to be lead by our good shepherd.**

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want!

People: **He makes us lie down in green pastures, he restores our souls, his rod and staff comfort us. He prepares a table before us in front of our enemies. We will live in his house forever!**

Hymn

And Can It Be that I Should Gain

(verses 1, 3, and 5)

1. And can it be that I should gain an
 2. 'Tis mys - tery all: th'Im - mor - tal dies! Who
 3. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so
 4. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay, fast
 5. No con - dem - na - tion now I dread; Je -

in - terest in the Sav - ior's blood! Died he for
 can ex - plore his strange de - sign? In vain the
 free, so in - fi - nite his grace!), emp - tied him -
 bound in sin and na - ture's night; thine eye dif -
 sus, and all in him, is mine; a - live in

me? who caused his pain! For me? who him to
 first - born ser - aph tries to sound the depths of
 self of all but love, and bled for Ad - am's
 fused a quick-ening ray; I woke, the dun - geon
 him, my liv - ing Head, and clothed in righ - teous -

death pur - sued? A - maz - ing love! How can it
 love di - vine. 'Tis mer - cy all! Let earth a -
 help - less race. 'Tis mer - cy all, im - mense and
 flamed with light; my chains fell off, my heart was
 ness di - vine, bold I ap - proach th'e - ter - nal

be that thou, my God, shouldst die for
dore; let an - gel minds in - quire no
free, for O my God, it found out
free, I rose, went forth, and fol - lowed
throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my

me? A - maz - ing love! How can it be
more. 'Tis mer - cy all! Let earth a - dore;
me! 'Tis mer - cy all, im - mense and free,
thee. My chains fell off, my heart was free,
own. Bold I ap - proach th'e - ter - nal throne,

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A - maz - ing love! | How can it be |
| 2. 'Tis mer - cy all! | Let earth a - dore; |
| 3. 'Tis mer - cy all, | im - mense and free, |
| 4. My chains fell off, | my heart was free, |
| 5. Bold I ap - proach | th'e - ter - nal throne, |

that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
let an - gel minds in - quire no more.
for O my God, it found out me!
I rose, went forth, and fol - lowed thee.
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

that thou, my God,
let an - gel minds
for O my God,
I rose, went forth,
and claim the crown,

Opening Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being our good shepherd. You show us the difference between good and bad, love and hate, care and indifference. In a world full of bad shepherds, we know we can trust you to be good all the

time. Help us to shepherd others the way you shepherd us. Help us to be trustworthy, faithful, righteous and loving to all people. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

My Tribute

(sing twice)

To God be the glo - ry, to God be the glo - ry,
to God be the glo - ry for the things he has done.
With his blood he has saved me; with his power he has raised me;
to God be the glo - ry for the things he has done.

Senior Choir

Sing a Song of Joy

Theron Kirk

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

John 10:1-10

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message *I Am the Good Shepherd*

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory *Benediction* Alexander Schreiner

Doxology Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A Service of Word and Table


Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 8](#) of this document.

Communion Anthem *A Parting Blessing* *J. Jerome William*

Hymn *Alleluia, Alleluia* *(verses 1 and 4)*

Refrain (Unison)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the



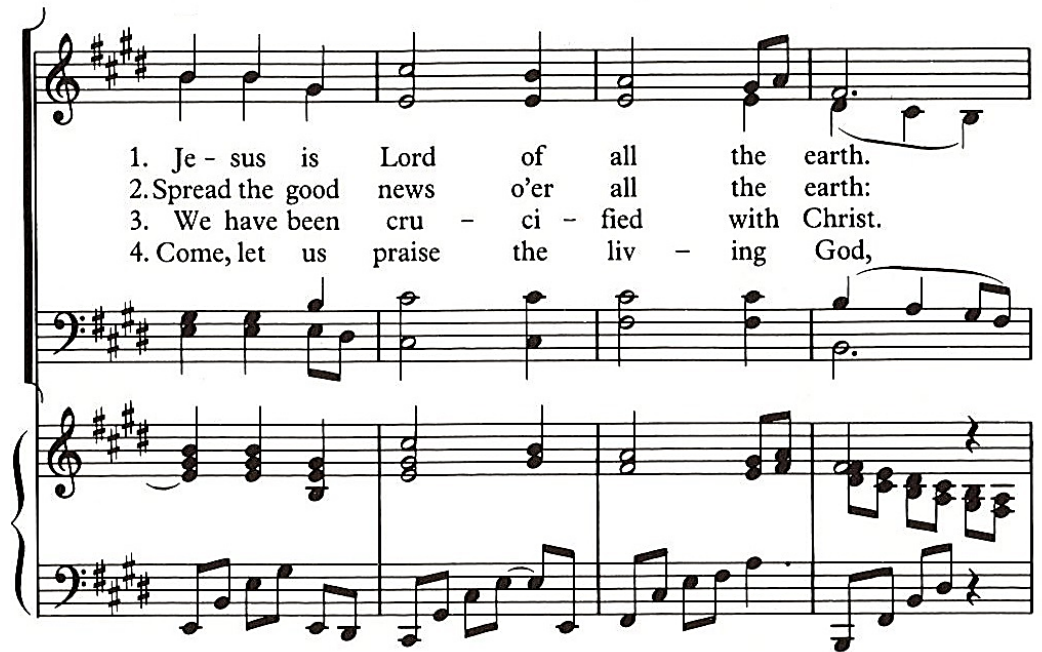
ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give

1-4

Final ending



praise to his name. name.



1. Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3. We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4. Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

Repeat Refrain

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -
Now we shall live for - ev - er.
joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of staves. The top system is for the vocal line, with lyrics underneath. The middle system is for the bass line of the piano accompaniment. The bottom system is for the piano accompaniment, showing both the right and left hands. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'He is the King of cre - a - tion. Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le - Now we shall live for - ev - er. joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.' The word 'Al-le' is written above the line. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Benediction

Postlude

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

John Darwall

A Service of Word and Table

Invitation

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing their response:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
power and might. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - - - - -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
est! Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

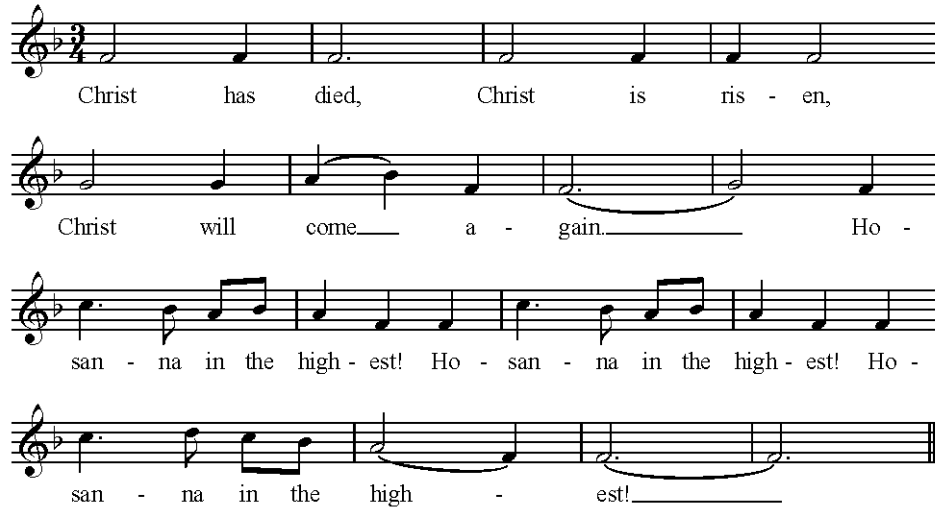
Music © 1999 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co. Used by permission.

Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The people sing their response:

Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
Christ will come a - gain. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

Music © 1999 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co. Used by permission.
Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-c.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen!

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Cup