



MAYO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Amanda McMurtrey, *Pastor*
CCLI #3018000

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Worship – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 4, 2025  
*Guest Preacher: Rev. Martha Meredith*

Greeting

Musical Introit

## \*Call to Worship

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD,

**People: and give thanks to God's holy name**

Leader: for the LORD our God has healed us

**People: when we cried for help**

Leader: and restored us

**People: in times of deepest despair.**

Leader: The LORD has turned our sorrow into dancing;

**People: taken our sackcloth from us, and clothed us with joy.**

Leader: Sing to the LORD without end,

**People: and give thanks to the LORD forever.**

## \*Opening Prayer

Eternal and ever present God, sustain and excite our gathered community; arouse our expectancy; subdue our expectations. Come, silent Spirit, and embrace us. Let the words we see, hear, speak, and sing be transformed by Christ, the Word made flesh, that our worship may be wholly yours, Lord God. We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen

## \*Song of Praise

*"Lift High the Cross"*

UMH 159

## \*Affirmation of Faith from I Corinthians 15:1-6 and Colossians 1:15-20

UMH 888

Leader: This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved.

**People: Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit.**

**Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.**

Gloria Patri

Children's Time

New Testament Lesson                      Acts 9:1-20

*(see addendum below)*

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Song of Reflection

Doug Bischoff

Sermon

*"An Unlikely Friendship"*

Rev. Martha Meredith

Song of Response

***"One Bread, One Body"***

**UMH 620**

**Invitation to the Table**

**\*Confession**

**All: 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.**

**\*Words of Assurance**

Leader: 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 forgiven!

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.**

Celebration of Holy Communion

**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.***

Giving Praise to God For Our Blessings

**\*Doxology**

**UMH 95**

**\*Benediction & Sending Forth**

**\*Song of Sending Forth**

***"Because He Lives"***

**UMH 364**

### **Acts 9:1-20, (CEB)**

Meanwhile, Saul was still spewing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest,<sup>2</sup> seeking letters to the synagogues in Damascus. If he found persons who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, these letters would authorize him to take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> During the journey, as he approached Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven encircled him.<sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why are you harassing me?"<sup>5</sup> Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?" "I am Jesus, whom you are harassing," came the reply.<sup>6</sup> "Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do."<sup>7</sup> Those traveling with him stood there speechless; they heard the voice but saw no one.<sup>8</sup> After they picked Saul up from the ground, he opened his eyes but he couldn't see. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.<sup>9</sup> For three days he was blind and neither ate nor drank anything.

<sup>10</sup>In Damascus there was a certain disciple named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias!" He answered, "Yes, Lord."<sup>11</sup> The Lord instructed him, "Go to Judas' house on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying."<sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias enter and put his hands on him to restore his sight."<sup>13</sup> Ananias countered, "Lord, I have heard many reports about this man. People say he has done horrible things to your holy people in Jerusalem."<sup>14</sup> He's here with authority from the chief priests to arrest everyone who calls on your name."<sup>15</sup> The Lord replied, "Go! This man is the agent I have chosen to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites."<sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."<sup>17</sup> Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the way as you were coming here. He sent me so that you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."<sup>18</sup> Instantly, flakes fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. He got up and was baptized.<sup>19</sup> After eating, he regained his strength.

He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days.<sup>20</sup> Right away, he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues. "He is God's Son," he declared.