

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *in unison*

Drew Scoggins

Teach us, good Lord,  
to serve as you deserve  
to give and not to count the cost;  
to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest;  
to labor and not to ask for any reward,  
except that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

#570 Prayer of Ignatius of Loyola

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you would like to become a follower of Jesus Christ, or are interested in joining St. Luke's United Methodist Church, we would love to talk to you about what that means. Please visit the Connection Desk to learn more.

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

368

My Hope Is Built

THE SOLID ROCK

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Cliff Ritter

POSTLUDE

Allegro assai vivace from Sonata No. 1

Mendelssohn

At places marked \* those who are able may stand.

What's Happening at St. Luke's

Coffee with the Pastor | Today at 4 p.m. | Hines Baker

Are you interested in learning more about St. Luke's? Ready to begin the path to membership? Attend Coffee with the Pastor, meet Dr. Tom Pace, hear his story, and learn more about St. Luke's values and vision. Register: [StLukesMethodist.org/CWP](http://StLukesMethodist.org/CWP)

Working Faith Breakfast Gathering

Wednesday, April 17 | 8 a.m. | Hines Baker

David Gow is the speaker at our next Working Faith breakfast. His topic is *Faith and Work: A Lifetime of Lessons Learned*. Breakfast is free. You can just show up or register here, [StLukesMethodist.org/AprilWorkingFaith](http://StLukesMethodist.org/AprilWorkingFaith)

April Collection

It's time for school supplies for Small Steps, our Community Partner, that provides "an exemplary early childhood program for economically at-risk children and their families." Drop off supplies in the donations bin or order online. [StLukesMethodist.org/schoolsupplies](http://StLukesMethodist.org/schoolsupplies)

Navigating Modern Parenting Pitfalls with Confidence, Part 2

Sunday, April 21 | 4 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Ready to next-level your parenting effectiveness? The Parenting Center is excited to welcome Dr. Kim Swales as she returns with specific and effective steps for tackling challenges all families face.

Register: [StLukesMethodist.org/ModernParenting2](http://StLukesMethodist.org/ModernParenting2)

Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith

by Sarah Bessey

April 21-June 30 | 4-5:30 p.m. | Chapel

This book guides us through the principles of practicing wonder and curiosity as spiritual disciplines, making space for lament and righteous rage, finding good spiritual teachers and discovering what we are for in this life, and moving in that direction.

Astros Watch Party | Sunday, April 21 | 12 p.m. | branches building

Come watch the game on the really big screen and meet Orbit!

Pre-purchase hotdogs from James Coney Island: [brancheshtx.org/orbit](http://brancheshtx.org/orbit)

Welcome to worship at St. Luke's!

If you are visiting and would like to learn more about our church, please stop by the Connection Desk for a welcome gift.

Tell us you are here!

1. Is this your first visit?

Please text *iamnew* to 97000 to let us know you are worshipping with us today!

2. Check in on the St. Luke's App.

If you don't have the app installed on your phone, you can download it at:

[StLukesMethodist.org/app](http://StLukesMethodist.org/app).

Sermon Notes

Those Useless Kids

Second in the Series, *Lies of Little Gods*

Temptations and tensions

The shape of the idol

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- 
- 
- 

Being and doing

Leading in Worship Today: Dr. Tom Pace; Rev. Cliff Ritter; Drew Scoggins, Pastoral Intern; Rev. Ann Pierce Arnett.

Musicians: Sid Davis, Director of Music & Fine Arts; Victoria Shorokhova, Organ Scholar; Justin Bair, Associate Director of Music & Worship; B.B. Bamberg, Accompanist; Sonos; Pure Sound.

Acolytes: Bella Weiss, Emmerson Weiss.

The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and given in celebration of the baptism of Henry David Hale by his parents, Catherine and Reese Hale and brother, Ryan Hale; and in celebration of the baptism of James Philip Ladewig by his parents, Michelle and David Ladewig.



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

April 14, 2024 | 8:30 a.m.



St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

Dr. Tom Pace, Senior Pastor

713-622-5710 | [StLukesMethodist.org](http://StLukesMethodist.org)

**PRELUDE** *Berceuse* Vierne

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**  
110 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN' FESTE BURG

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED** UMH #881 **Drew Scoggins**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI** UMH #70 MEINEKE

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**WELCOME** Dr. Tom Pace

**SCRIPTURE READING** Rev. Ann Pierce Arnett  
Matthew 18:1-5

<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup>He called a child, whom he put among them, <sup>3</sup>and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER**

**MORNING PRAYER** Rev. Cliff Ritter

**SERMON** *Those Useless Kids* Dr. Tom Pace  
*Second in the Series, Lies of Little Gods*

**OFFERTORY** *Thee We Adore* arr. Johnson  
Pure Sound

Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee.

Who in thy sacrament art pleased to be;

Both in flesh and Spirit in thy presence fail,

Yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.

Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God:  
Cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;  
Increase our faith and love, that we may know  
The hope and peace which from thy presence flow.

O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see:  
May what we thirst for soon our portion be,  
To gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face,  
The vision of thy glory and thy grace. Amen.

*As an alternative to the offering plate, text gift amount to: 832-669-5500.*

**\*DOXOLOGY** UMH #95 OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION** Rev. Cliff Ritter

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy,  
You sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.  
We confess that we have strayed from you  
And turned aside from your way.  
We are misled by pride,  
For we see ourselves pure when we are stained,  
And great when we are small.  
We have failed in love,  
Neglected justice,  
And ignored your truth.  
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.  
Return us to paths of righteousness  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON**

God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,  
overflowing with loyal love and faithfulness.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

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

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*...the pastor continues*

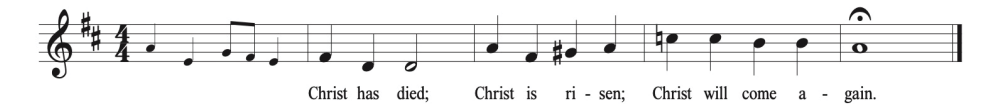
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Jim Roman



*...the pastor continues*

*...in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*



*...the pastor continues*

All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



**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.**

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION**

397

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

NEED

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

*We are guests at Christ's table which is open to all. Receive the wafer in your hands, and the server will say, "The body of Christ, given for you," and your response could be, "Amen." Then dip the wafer into the juice and the server will say, "The blood of Christ, given for you," and again you may respond, "Amen."*

*Gluten-free wafers and pre-filled cups are available. Indicate your need to your server. Offerings left at the communion rail will be directed to the Member Care Fund, which aids our friends in need.*

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION** *Locus Iste* Sonos

Bruckner

Locus iste a Deo factus est,  
inaestimabile sacramentum,  
irreprehensibilis est.

*This place was made by God,  
a priceless sacrament;  
it is without reproach.*