

# FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF  
First Presbyterian Church



APRIL 3, 2023

## Old First Church At a Glance

### Wednesday, April 5

Noon Bible Study Brown Bag Lunch

### Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

### Friday, April 7

Simple Meal & Writing Exercise in  
Letting Go - See page 6.

5:00 p.m. - Westminster Room

Good Friday Worship Service

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

### Saturday, April 8

Easter Vigil Communion Service

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

### Easter Sunday, April 9

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

9:30 a.m. - Westminster Room

Family Photo Op - Courtyard

Easter Morning Communion Worship  
Service

11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary

### Monday, April 10, 2023

Church Office Closed

First Presbyterian Church

110 North Adams Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

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website: [www.oldfirstchurch.org](http://www.oldfirstchurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch](http://www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch)

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 a.m.

Adult Church School Meet and  
Greet on Zoom & In Person in the  
Westminster Room Program starts  
at 9:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

Nursery open for  
infants - two-year-olds.

9:30 a.m.

Younger Children's Class  
Room 306

Older Children's Class  
Room 301

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary.  
Childcare is available for children  
younger than kindergarten.



In Person and

Live-Stream Worship

Visit [www.oldfirstchurch.org](http://www.oldfirstchurch.org) to  
download Sunday's bulletin and  
view the service. Services are  
recorded and available for later  
viewing on YouTube  
[@FPCTallahassee](https://www.youtube.com/@FPCTallahassee).



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday





## Pastor's Message

### Rev. Anne H.K. Apple

Samuel Taylor Coleridge says that

*friendship is a sheltering tree.*

Mary Oliver says that when she is among the trees,

*I would almost say, they save me, daily.*

Fleeing for his life, the prophet Elijah laid down under a broom tree and prayed,

*I have had enough, Lord. Take my life, ....*

Liberation theologian, James Cone, says,

*The conspicuous absence of the lynching tree in American theological discourse and preaching is profoundly revealing, especially since the crucifixion was clearly a first-century lynching.*

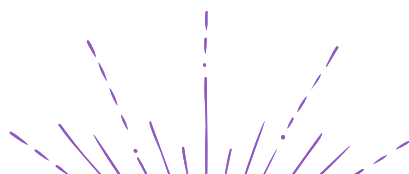
We head deeply into Holy Week when a tree carved into the form of the cross is the source of violence and torture while also the symbol of our confidence in the resurrection. I am aware of the struggle found in the tension between Christian friendship and discipleship.

I experience this tension standing on the porch of the church. Standing on the porch is like standing at the foot of the cross for me.

On Christmas Eve of 2022, we exited worship and could only exit to the South. Richard Bush blocked the pathway to the North steps. We did so because an unhoused member of the Tallahassee community had fallen asleep on the porch blocking that exit as we sang Silent Night, Holy Night. Another member desperately wanted to house that person that Christmas evening but the unhoused woman was not interested in another kind of "housing." The porch was enough. It was hard to shake that image as I left church for the comfort and warmth of our new Tallahassee home.

Making a public witness in Lent of 2023, we walked outside of the sanctuary a week ago, and from the courtyard back into the sanctuary yesterday. Some of us flowed into the streets - taking the Word made flesh out onto the streets crying 'Hosanna - God save us.' As Christ's church, as First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, our parade in the city became our witness that we believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion matter. We have a sign that hangs from the porch railing that says so. The sign reads: "As followers of Jesus Christ we support diversity, equity, and inclusion." We even dared to ask God's blessing upon our witness as our feet and voices proclaimed that there is plenty good room in God's kingdom for all people.

Plenty good room is who we are, and the porch of First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, is a place where several unhoused members of the community take shelter and rest overnight.



Have you met Earnest, Jason, and Linda? They are men and women, black and white, who find “home” on the church porch. I have also met others whose names I can’t remember who linger after worship in need of a good word, a few dollars, or some food to get down the road. In last Sunday’s gospel text, Jesus said about the woman who anointed him for death, “You will always have the poor with you.” This does not mean we inadvertently or intentionally dismiss the poor among us, it is a challenge to our faithfulness for what our witness will be. The Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian have helped us to make a difference by assembling bags to distribute to those who are unhoused, who approach and ask for food or drink. That care is a way we practice our hospitality.

It is a challenge for the church when we find ourselves balancing our acts of hospitality alongside our concern for our employees, members and our property. What does it mean that the porch is littered daily with leftover food containers, chicken bones, and sometimes human excrement? What does it mean that sometimes that unhoused member resting on the porch of the church does not want to be disturbed, but only wants to continue to rest in our safe space?

In Memphis, a member of the unhoused community completely undressed and danced naked on the steps of the church with an empty milk crate and a bag of Kingford Charcoal. People across the street at the local grocery took pictures and posted them online, making fun and wondering what was going on; a local paper wrote about the “Clean Sweep.” Our pastor responded with a public letter about our unhoused friend, “Marilyn.”

He wrote, “I will explain it quite simply: mental illness, alcoholism, homelessness. And she has a name. Her name is Marilyn. We have loved her, fed her, counseled her, tried to refer her for some help, cautioned her, and even had to use “tough love” at times. For we dare to believe that beneath all that brokenness is a beloved child of God. For we are all broken in one way or the other. Some are able, with our privilege, to hide it better than others. Jesus was as clear as day toward the end of his life when he told a parable about what was truly important. *When did we see you hungry ... or naked?*”

This tension about the porch at First Presbyterian Church Tallahassee is not easily resolved, and it is a place to pray for God’s work of resurrection hope. I will meet you there.

**God’s peace,  
God’s presence.**  
**Anne**

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TALLAHASSEE

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Remembering Jesus' actions, reflecting on his messages and recommitting to living as his disciples in the world today.

We hope this schedule helps you plan to observe these important days, both on your own and with others. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

## Wednesday, 5 April, 2023

Bible Study Luncheon Series Noon

## Thursday, 6 April, 2023

Maundy Thursday Communion Service 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

## Friday, 7 April, 2023

Good Friday Simple Meal & Writing Exercise in Letting Go

5:00 p.m. - Westminster Room

Good Friday Worship Service 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

## Saturday, 8 April, 2023

Easter Saturday Vigil Communion Service

6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

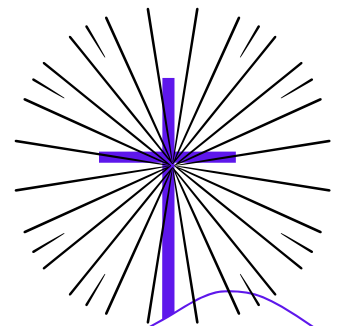
## Easter Sunday, 9 April, 2023

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

9:30 a.m. - Westminster Room

Easter Morning Communion Worship Service

11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary



# Children's Church School

**APRIL 9, 2023**

**No classes this Sunday.  
Join us 9:30 a.m. in the  
Westminster Room for Easter  
breakfast followed by an Easter  
egg hunt.**



**Sunday, April 9, 2023**

No class this Sunday.  
Join us 9:30 a.m. in the  
Westminster Room for  
Easter breakfast followed  
by an Easter egg hunt.



## **Nursery and Preschool Childcare**

9:15 a.m. – the end of worship

Infants and children up to three years old – main floor nursery  
Three – Pre-K children – third floor preschool classroom

The Twinkle Toes Agency staffs both rooms. All our sitters are CPR/First Aid trained and have had a full background screening. There are two sitters in each room. Please don't hesitate to contact Eleanor Cleveland at [eleanor@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:eleanor@oldfirstchurch.org) about childcare.

Simple Supper and An Exercise in Letting Go  
Good Friday 5:00 p.m. Westminster Room

Do you ever find yourself pondering, fretting or even agonizing about the distant or recent past over words exchanged, things done to you or by you or left undone? Things that cannot be changed can weigh us down and steal our joy; but, how do we let them go? One ritual approach to this involves writing the grievance down and then burning the paper upon which it is written.

At our supper on Good Friday you will be asked to write a brief statement that begins,  
*This is what I need to let go, and let Christ take to the cross, that I might be born anew.*

These writings will be nailed to the cross, and then at Saturday's Easter Vigil service – they will be put into the bonfire in the Garth.

For those unable to participate in Friday's Supper, if you get your statement to the church office by Thursday, April 6th it will be included. You do not need to identify yourself on the statement.



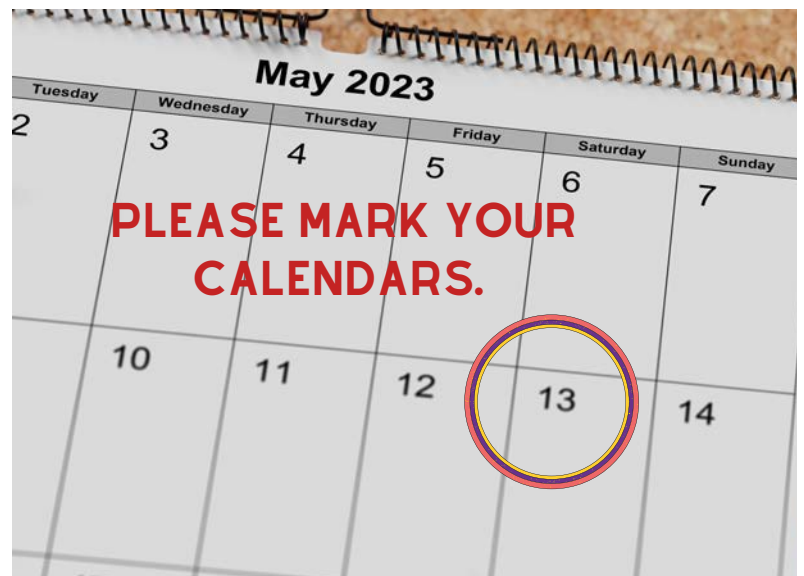




The Michael Corzine Music Education Fund was established in 2022 in honor of Michael Corzine's lengthy music ministry with our congregation as well as his nurture and mentoring of generations of students. The goal of the fund is encouraging students who are considering a call to service as church musicians by providing opportunities for those students to participate in worship and music in ways that will both support their call and enrich the worship life of this congregation. Once the fund has accumulated a sufficient amount, proceeds will be available for either recurring or one-time expenditures relating to the music program of our congregation, as long as those expenditures are consistent with the goal of the fund. To contribute, use the "special giving" link on the website, [oldfirstchurch.org/giving/](http://oldfirstchurch.org/giving/), or send a check to the office; use the memo line or "notes" section to designate the Corzine Fund as the recipient of your gift.



On Saturday afternoon May 13, First Pres will have an ice cream social at Home Front, a residential unit for formerly homeless veterans. Families are encouraged to come to enjoy home-made ice cream, music, games and an opportunity to talk with the residents. Members can also see the new rec room at Home Front refurbished and furnished by First Pres members. The time is 2-4 pm; the place, 1602 Stuckey Ave.





# NO FAITH IN FOSSIL FUELS

## A CLIMATE FINANCE SUMMIT

May 8-11

Hurricanes. Excessive Heat. Crop failure. The loss of biodiversity and human life around the world. All of it is horrible– and could have been avoided.

Climate destruction is being bankrolled by large corporations and their executives who choose to act against what is right and good, at the expense of our planet’s future. The climate crisis is a crisis of greed.

From May 8-11, people of faith will gather to learn about how banks and asset managers continue to invest in the fossil fuel industries that are destroying communities in the U.S. and around the world–and find out how to take action. Together, we will take the bold steps necessary to affect real change.

This year’s three-day summit will amplify the voices of frontline leaders of Turtle Island (what we now call the United States) and the Global South, whose communities bear the direct brunt of financial decisions made by Chase Bank, Bank of America, Vanguard, BlackRock, and others who invest in harmful oil and gas extraction.

SUMMIT AGENDA (This agenda will be revised as we confirm speakers, so check back for exciting updates!):

- May 8 at 12pm ET: No Faith in Fossil Fuels: Opening Session
- May 9 at 9am ET: Joint Event on Climate-Responsible Finance - a Moral Imperative towards Children in collaboration with World Council of Churches, UNEP, JLI, and UNICEF
- May 10 at 12pm ET: No Faith in Fossil Fuels: Climate Finance on the Ground
- May 10 at 8pm ET: No Faith in Fossil Fuels: Spiritual Practices for Resilience.
- May 11 at 12pm ET: No Faith in Fossil Fuels Action Hour

This summit is for you if:

- You’re just making the connections between faith, finance, and climate;
- You’re a money manager rooted in just climate values; or
- You want to be sure that your money isn’t being used to fund climate chaos.

[Learn more and register to join, here.](#)

Let’s work in faith–and for each other–together!

SAVE THE DATE



# UKIRK

TALLAHASSEE

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND UKIRK'S  
ANNUAL MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE

23 | May | 2023

6:00 - 7:30 pm

548 W. Park Ave. Tallahassee, FL 32301



**The Choir meets at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and we are open to all singers.**

**Contact Ethan Murphy or the church office for more information.**

## FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church

The newsletter is prepared on Mondays, including those Mondays that fall on holidays.

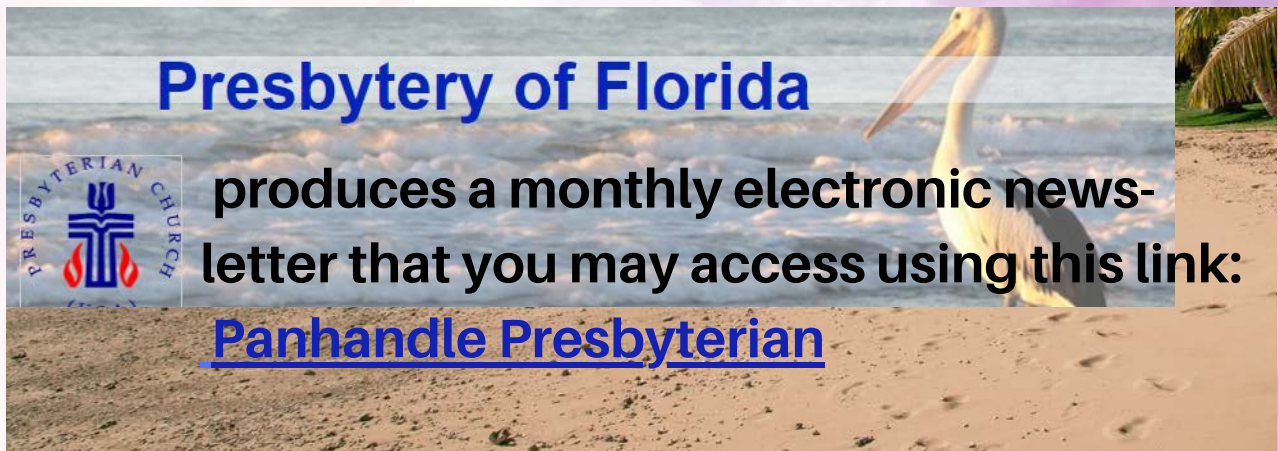
Please submit items for publication to:  
[newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org)  
no later than noon on production Mondays; or, if possible, earlier the previous week.

## Presbytery of Florida



produces a monthly electronic newsletter that you may access using this link:

[Panhandle Presbyterian](#)





## EASTER DINNER AT GRACE MISSION

First Pres is slated to help serve Easter dinner at Grace Mission on April 9th. Please consider helping out our neighbors in need on this special day. We meet at 4 pm and are finished by 6 pm. If you can serve, please contact Carol Weissert at [cweissert@fsu.edu](mailto:cweissert@fsu.edu) or go to the Sign Up Genius page directly at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4caca72ca3f85-grace1>.



### SECOND HARVEST BREAD BOXING

Friday May 5 from 9:45 - Noon

Since Second Harvest will be closed on Good Friday, our next day of service is the first Friday in May. If you are interested in joining your First Pres family in helping provide food for the hungry in May, you can sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050849AAA72DAB9-second>

or

contact Debbie Gibson at [gibsond1207@mail.com](mailto:gibsond1207@mail.com) or 850-656-3659.

We hope you can join us some time soon.



### Food Offering for Elder Care Services and Second Harvest of the Big Bend



### OUR FOOD GIFTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Thank you so much for your wonderful support of our First Sunday Food Collection efforts! Your food donations are brought alternately to Second Harvest and to Elder Care Services (ECS), and have provided hundreds of meals for our hungry and food insecure neighbors. So please mark your calendars now for our next food collection date on

**Sunday, May 7, 2023.**

Please consider including in your grocery list some items for those food-insecure neighbors around us. For questions, please contact Jan Bush. A list of the most-needed items is provided here for your convenience.

**Cereal - Peanut Butter - Canned: Fruits, Vegetables, Meats, and Hearty Soup/Stew**



## **Sunday Festival Readings**

**APRIL 9, 2023**

**RESURRECTION OF THE LORD  
EASTER SUNDAY**

**ACTS 10:34-43 OR JER. 31:1-6**

**PS. 118:1-2, 14-24**

**COL. 3:1-4 OR ACTS 10:34-43**

**MATTHEW 28:1-10**



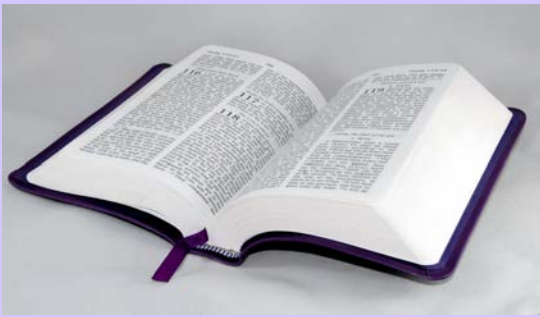
Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

We acknowledge the long history of systemic racism that, through violence, laws, policies, and their implementation, was intended to exclude persons who are not Caucasian from benefits and opportunities - from the first European settlers who considered themselves entitled to land and violently displaced indigenous people from their homes, to the equally long history of slavery which built the wealth of this country, to Jim Crow laws to current instances of police brutality and the overwhelming mass incarceration of people of color.

We declare ourselves utterly opposed to all forms of systemic racism. We are committed to standing with those who find themselves on the receiving end of any form of racism. We will seek out opportunities to oppose all forms of systematic racism and to ensure that black lives matter, as do those of indigenous, Asian, and Latinx people and persons of all colors or countries of origin. Our faith tells us that we can do no less, if we truly affirm that all human beings are made in god's image.

We dream of a day in which all persons are treated as bearers of that image.





# DAILY LECTIONARY FOR APRIL 1-14, 2023

## **Saturday, April 1**

Morning: Pss. 43; 149

Evening: Pss. 31; 143

Jer. 31:27-34

Rom. 11:25-36

John 11:28-44 or

John 12:37-50

## **Sunday, April 2**

Palm/Passion Sunday

Morning: Pss. 84; 150

Evening: Pss. 42; 32

Zech. 9:9-12

1 Tim. 6:12-16 or

Zech. 12:9-11; 13:1, 7-9

Matt. 21:12-1

## **Monday, April 3**

Monday of Holy Week

Morning: Pss. 119:73-80; 145

Evening: Pss. 121; 6

Jer. 11:18-20; 12:1-16 (17)

Phil. 3:1-14

John 12:9-19

## **Tuesday, April 4**

Tuesday of Holy Week

Morning: Pss. 34; 146

Evening: Pss. 25; 91

Jer. 15:10-21

Phil. 3:15-21

John 12:20-26

## **Wednesday, April 5**

Wednesday of Holy Week

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 27; 51

Jer. 17:5-10, 14-17 (18)

Phil. 4:1-13

John 12:27-36

## **Thursday, April 6**

Maundy Thursday

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 126; 102

Jer. 20:7-11 (12-13) 14-18

1 Cor. 10:14-17; 11:27-32

John 17:1-11 (12-26)

## **Friday, April 7**

Good Friday

Morning: Pss. 22; 148

Evening: Pss. 105; 130

Gen. 22:1-14

1 Peter 1:10-20

John 13:36-38 or

John 19:38-42

## **Saturday, April 8**

Holy Saturday

Morning: Pss. 43; 149

Evening: Pss. 31; 143

Job 19:21-27a

Heb. 4:1-16

Rom. 8:1-11

## **Sunday, April 9**

Resurrection of the Lord

Easter

Morning: Pss. 93; 150

Evening: Pss. 136; 117

Exod. 12:1-14

John 1:1-18 or

Isa. 51:9-11

Luke 24:13-35 or

John 20:19-23

## **Monday, April 10**

Morning: Pss. 97; 145

Evening: Pss. 124; 115

Jonah 2:1-10

Acts 2:14, 22-32

John 14:1-14

## **Tuesday, April 11**

Morning: Pss. 98; 146

Evening: Pss. 66; 116

Isa. 30:18-26

Acts 2:36-41 (42-47)

John 14:15-31

## **Wednesday, April 12**

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11

Evening: Pss. 9; 118

Micah 7:7-15

Acts 3:1-10

John 15:1-11

## **Thursday, April 13**

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20

Evening: Pss. 68; 113

Ezek. 37:1-14

Acts 3:11-26

John 15:12-27

## **Friday, April 14**

Morning: Pss. 96; 148

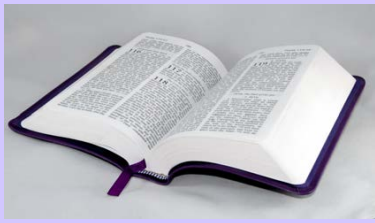
Evening: Pss. 49; 138

Dan. 12:1-4, 13

Acts 4:1-12

John 16:1-15

If you wish to read these  
on your computer you  
will find them on the  
PCUSA website [here](#).



# DAILY LECTIONARY FOR APRIL 15-30, 2023

## **Saturday, April 15**

Morning: Pss. 92; 149  
Evening: Pss. 23; 114  
Isa. 25:1-9  
Acts 4:13-21 (22-31)  
John 16:16-33

## **Sunday, April 16**

### **Second Sunday of Easter**

Morning: Pss. 93; 150  
Evening: Pss. 136; 117  
Isa. 43:8-13  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-7

## **Monday, April 17**

Morning: Pss. 97; 145  
Evening: Pss. 124; 115  
Dan. 1:1-21  
John 1:1-10  
John 17:1-11

## **Tuesday, April 18**

Morning: Pss. 98; 146  
Evening: Pss. 66; 116  
Dan. 2:1-16  
1 John 2:1-11  
John 17:12-19

## **Wednesday, April 19**

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11  
Evening: Pss. 9; 118  
Dan. 2:17-30  
1 John 2:12-17  
John 17:20-26

## **Thursday, April 20**

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20  
Evening: Pss. 68; 113  
Dan. 2:31-49  
1 John 2:18-29  
Luke 3:1-1

## **Friday, April 21**

Morning: Pss. 96; 148  
Evening: Pss. 49; 138  
Dan. 3:1-18  
1 John 3:1-10  
Luke 3:15-22

## **Saturday, April 22**

Morning: Pss. 92; 149  
Evening: Pss. 23; 114  
Dan. 3:19-30  
1 John 3:11-18  
Luke 4:1-13

## **Sunday, April 23**

### **Third Sunday of Easter**

Morning: Pss. 93; 150  
Evening: Pss. 136; 117  
Dan. 4:1-18  
1 Peter 4:7-11  
John 21:15-25

## **Monday, April 24**

Morning: Pss. 97; 145  
Evening: Pss. 124; 115  
Dan. 4:19-27  
1 John 3:19-4:6  
Luke 4:14-30

## **Tuesday, April 25**

Morning: Pss. 98; 14  
Evening: Pss. 66; 116  
Dan. 4:28-37  
1 John 4:7-21  
Luke 4:31-37

## **Wednesday, April 26**

Morning: Pss. 99; 147:1-11  
Evening: Pss. 9; 118  
Dan. 5:1-12  
1 John 5:1-12  
Luke 4:38-44

## **Thursday, April 27**

Morning: Pss. 47; 147:12-20  
Evening: Pss. 68; 113  
Dan. 5:13-30  
1 John 5:13-20 (21  
Luke 5:1-11

## **Friday, April 28**

Morning: Pss. 96; 148  
Evening: Pss. 49; 138  
Dan. 6:1-15  
2 John 1-13  
Luke 5:12-26

## **Saturday, April 29**

Morning: Pss. 92; 149  
Evening: Pss. 23; 114  
Dan. 6:16-28  
3 John 1-15  
Luke 5:27-39

## **Sunday, April 30**

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Morning: Pss. 93; 150  
Evening: Pss. 136; 117  
Gen. 18:22-33  
1 Peter 5:1-11  
Matt. 7:15-29

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