



United in Christ: Hope Now! Hope Always!

“Wait, Israel, for God! Wait with hope! Hope now! Hope always! Psalm 131:3

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman

Guest Preacher: Sandy Grant

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz Soloist: Kyla Betts

Lector: Brenda Skaar (8:00 a.m. & 9:15 a.m.)

Usher: Jerry Graffin (8:00 a.m.)

Tune your radio to FM 87.9 Technical Support: Thomas Lehr

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today’s gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples’ food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” set by Miller

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Fountain of living water,

C: **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**

Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen

P: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus

C: **Amen.**

HYMN: "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" #367 ELW Vss. 1,2,4

Vs. 1: Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" *Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!*

Repeat their song of glory here: "*Christ has triumphed! He is living!*"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Vs. 2: Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:

"*Christ has triumphed! He is living!*" *Now still he comes to give us life*

and by his presence stills all strife. "*Christ has triumphed! He is living!*"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Vs. 4: Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing:

"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!" Be to the Father, and our Lord,

to Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Honk your horns to greet one another.

LITANY

P: The word is near you,

C: **on your lips and in your heart.**

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!” #380 ELW vs. 1

**Vs. 1: Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy halls of death Christ, the conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies of his people, yet to rise.**

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM: “Jesus, Messiah” Tomlin, Carson, Cash & Reeves

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

¹²⁻¹⁶ When Peter saw he had a congregation, he addressed the people:

“Oh, Israelites, why does this take you by such complete surprise, and why stare at us as if *our* power or piety made him walk? The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his Son Jesus. The very One that Pilate called innocent, you repudiated. You repudiated the Holy One, the Just One, and asked for a murderer in his place. You no sooner killed the Author of Life than God raised him from the dead—and we’re the witnesses. Faith in Jesus’ name put this man, whose condition you know so well, on his feet—yes, faith and nothing but faith put this man healed and whole right before your eyes. ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ “And now, friends, I know you had no idea what you were doing when you killed Jesus, and neither did your leaders. But God, who through the preaching of all the prophets had said all along that his Messiah would be killed, knew exactly what

you were doing and used it to fulfill his plans. ¹⁹⁻²³ “Now it’s time to change your ways!

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Now the Green Blade Rises” #379 ELW vs. 1

**Vs.1: Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 24th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36-48

³⁶⁻⁴¹ While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, “Peace be with you.” They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, “Don’t be upset, and don’t let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it’s really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn’t have muscle and bone like this.” As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn’t believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

⁴¹⁻⁴³ He asked, “Do you have any food here?” They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes ⁴⁴ Then he said, “Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵⁻⁴⁹ He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way. He said, “You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem! You’re the first to hear and see it. You’re the witnesses.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN: "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" #383 ELW Vss. 1 & 3

Vs. 1: Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.

Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Vs. 3: Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, ev'ryone!

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Honk your horn 4 times after each petition

P: Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and

wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, O Lord, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

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 and ever. Amen.

ANOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Honk your horns one last time.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

SENDING HYMN: "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing!" #389 ELW Vss. 1,2,5

**Vs. 1: Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Vs. 2: Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.**

**Vs.5: Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

POSTLUDE: "Christ is Alive!" Williams/Linker