

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18th, 2021



**9:15am - Zoom and outdoor (weather permitting)  
Lutheran Church of the Living Christ**

*The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the gospel attributed to John. Many readings in this Easter season give attention to life lived in harmony with all of creation in light of Christ's resurrection. In a part of the world where Easter and springtime coincide, we take note of all of the newness and resurrection we see around us: butterflies, budding trees, spring rains, and lengthening days, and more. In worship we give thanks to God for gifts of creation, newness, and life!*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Come, let us dwell in God's shelter.

**C: Let us dwell in God's work of art.**

P: Come, because the Earth is the Lord's,

**C: And God's Earth is our home.**

P: We live in God's World; we are not alone.

**C: We share this life with the heavens and the earth,**

P: With the waters and the land,

**C: With trees and grasses,**

P: With fish, birds, and animals,

**C: With minerals and creatures of every form,**

P: And with all our human siblings.

**C: God is good and everything God makes is good.**

P: God is love and everything God makes is love's fruit.

**C: Let us worship God!**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things.

**C: Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.**

P: You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all that lives.

**C: Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety.**

P: Through the sea you lead your people Israel from slavery to freedom.

**C: In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.**

P: By the baptism of his death and resurrection, Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom.

**C: The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.**

P: Jesus sends us out to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us; wash away our sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children, no longer slave and free, no longer male or female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

OPENING HYMN - [Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds, ELW #367](#)



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**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.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Beloved One, you invite us to bring the entirety of who we are into your care. In our fullness, our complexity, even in our messiest state, you declare us your delight. 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING - Acts 3:1-10**

*A man unable to walk is offered newness of life in the name of Jesus Christ. Those that witness this event respond with wonder and amazement.*

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>2</sup>And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. <sup>3</sup>When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. <sup>4</sup>Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup>And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup>But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,[a] stand up and walk." <sup>7</sup>And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup>Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup>All the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup>and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM - Psalm 4**

L: Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;  
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

**C: "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;  
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"**

L: Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;  
the Lord will hear me when I call.

**C: Tremble, then, and do not sin;  
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

L: Offer the appointed sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the Lord.

**C: Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?"  
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.**

L: You have put gladness in my heart,  
more than when grain and wine abound.

**C: In peace, I will lie down and sleep;  
for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.**

## **SECOND READING - 1 John 3:1-7**

*God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed in Jesus Christ.*

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

<sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING - Luke 24:36b-48**

*In this post-resurrection appearance, Jesus eats with the disciples after rising from death. With joy and disbelief and wonder, the disciples are sent out as witnesses to proclaim this good news.*

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you."

<sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be

proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY - [Let the Whole Creation Cry, ELW #876](#)



1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, “Glo - ry to the Lord on high!”  
2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,  
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, “Praise to our al - might - y king!”  
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song,  
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;  
Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;  
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.  
all who work and all who wait, sing, “The Lord is good and great!”  
“Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!”

## CREEDAL DIALOGUE

*Adapted from "Care of the Earth" liturgy by the Rev. Jennifer Edinger*

P: People of faith, we are gently shaped in the womb of God's creative power. The seed of Christ's new life is sown, and we are made a new creation. As God's new creation, we are nursed and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Together with rattling leaves, blooming flowers, wind, sun, and rain- we add our shouts of praise to God, who gives life in creation, who gives new life in Jesus Christ, and who nourishes that life by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

P: We believe God creates.

**C: God spoke. Light and darkness; heaven and earth; land, sea and plants; sun, moon and stars; fish and birds and animals came to be. God spoke and made us. God gave us responsibility to care for creation. God spoke and all life God creates is good.**

P: We believe God re-creates.

**C: God spoke in the living word, Jesus Christ. At the cross, Christ spent himself to reclaim us from our human brokenness, to shower renewing forgiveness into our lives, and to place us before new horizons of life, lived in harmony with God and people and creation.**

P: We believe God caresses.

**C: The Holy Spirit delivers us into a family of faith. The Spirit cultivates in our lives the fruit of holy living: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The Spirit leads us into community, connection, and compassion. By the work of the Spirit we are a new creation.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy – for the church and its ministry; for the well-being of creation; for peace & justice; for the poor, oppressed, & sick; for all who suffer; for the congregation; & for special concerns/occasions.*

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. *A brief silence.*

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.

**Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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 (especially). Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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 (especially). Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace by waving, flashing a peace sign, or other form of distanced greeting. If you are joining us online, type a message or share a brief word of peace.*

## OFFERING AND PRAYER

*We continue to be the church together during this time through prayer and financial support. You can mail in your offering or send money through your bank. You can also take advantage of our online giving platform on our website. Your giving ensures that the ministries of this congregation continue during this time and into the future.*

P: Loving God, we are surrounded by the beauty of creation. We are supported by the abundance of creation. We gratefully receive your gifts of love and life--gifts which fill our lives with joy and satisfaction.

**C: In thankful response to your generosity, we place before you pieces of ourselves and of your creation--food from the earth we till, energy from the moments of our life, money from the skills you give, bread from the seeds that were sown and wine from the grapes that grow, and our abundance to share with others. Receive them as signs of our love and gratitude. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

## COMMUNION LITURGY

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts

**C: We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **C: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. With Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the witnesses to the resurrection, we praise your name, and join the unending refrain of all creation.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks for your gifts that tumble into and saturate our lives: for family and friends and strangers who enrich us; for the sunrise that energizes the day, and darkness that give quiet and rest at day's end; for rains that quench the thirsts of life and sun that warms the soil and germinates the seed; for winter snow that blankets the sleeping world.

As your fingerprint is upon all creation, your love is embossed on the human family. You sent the prophets to speak your comforting and cleansing word. You sent your son, Jesus the Christ, to proclaim your reign of forgiveness, justice, and peace.

Having been anointed by one whom he loved, and about to be betrayed by one whom he loved, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. After they had finished eating, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying this cup is the new covenant of my blood, shed for you and for all people. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life, pour out your Holy Spirit on us. Bless us wherever we gather in your name. Grace our tables, counters, and laps with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of wine. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth to serve in your name. With your holy ones of all times, places, and locations, and with all of creation, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

P: As we are the body of Christ, we take this sign of Christ's body into ourselves. The body and blood of Christ given and shed for you. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER**

P: May this sign of God's presence, this shared bread between us, strengthen us and give us peace. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tuesday Bible Study
2. Bingo and Fellowship 4/23 @ 6:30pm
3. Book Study 4/28 @ 7pm

## BENEDICTION

L: Go out into the world in the joy and peace of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Care for God's redeemed creation; follow Christ as disciples in word and deed; be blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

C: Alleluia! Amen!

## SENDING HYMN - [Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing ELW #389](#)



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

## DISMISSAL

L: You are the body of Christ raised up with all of creation. Go; share the good news!

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!