

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
18 April 2021

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 Lord's day. 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.

+ GATHERING +

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

- P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C. Amen.
- P. Rejoicing in the resurrection, let us seek God's forgiveness, that dying to sin, we may walk in newness of life.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P. Loving God,
C. we fear, we doubt, we do not trust You; we do not love our neighbors as ourselves; we have failed to recognize You in the poor and needy; we sin against You in thought, word, and deed. We pray for Your mercy, forgiveness, and grace. We hope in the gift of Your Spirit and we rejoice in the resurrection promise of Jesus Christ, our living Savior. Amen.
- P. God, Who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. May you be strengthen daily with the power to walk in God's light and love.
C. Amen.

GREETING

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P. The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C. And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Feast of Victory for Our God

Pastor:



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Congregation:



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



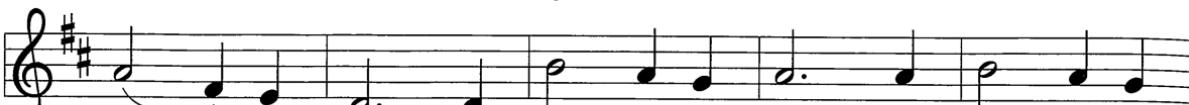
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



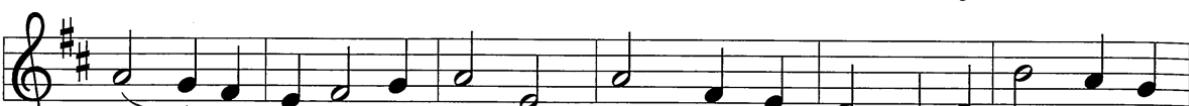
strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. 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.

C. Amen

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12–19

After healing a crippled man, Peter preaches to the people how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified His servant Jesus, Whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release Him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, Whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in His name, His name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what He had foretold through all the prophets, that His Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 4

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

²“You mortals, how long will you dishonor My glory;
 how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?”

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
 the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴Tremble, then, and do not sin;
 speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,
 and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!”
 Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.

⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
 more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

⁸I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;
 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 Jesus to take away our sins.

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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And all who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.

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

The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 24:36b–48

In this account of an appearance after His resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand Him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that He has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus Himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.”³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?³⁹ 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.”⁴⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”⁴² They gave Him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³ and He took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ 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.”⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ 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,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.”

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Who Once Were Dead



1 We who once were dead now live, ful - ly know - ing Je - sus
2 We were lost in night, but you sought and found us. Give us
3 He be - came our bread; Je - sus died to save us. On him
4 Let us share the pain you en - dured in dy - ing; we shall



as our head. Life is o - ver-flow-ing when he breaks the bread.
strength to fight; death is all a-round us. Je - sus, be our light.
we are fed, eat - ing what he gave us, ris - ing from the dead.
then re - main liv - ing; death de - fy - ing, we shall rise a - gain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,

and born of the virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 On the third day He rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again 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.

+ PRAYER +

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY

He Is Arisen, Glorious Word

He is a - ris - en! Glo-rious Word! Now rec - on-ciled is God, my
 Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen. My Je - sus rose tri -
 um-phant-ly, And Sa-tan's ar - rows bro-ken lie, De-stroyed hell's
 fierc - est weap - on. Oh, hear, what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing
 glo-rious, Life is giv - ing. He was dead, but now is liv - ing!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Blessed are You, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

C. Day by day You shower us with blessings. As You raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise You and to respond to those in need through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

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 the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

Creating God, like a master artist You have fashioned the universe out of Your love and delight. Heal Your creation when it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

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 bring them back to health and wholeness. We pray especially for Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Bill and Karen Pohlen, Bill Ningen, Carol, Sylvia and Jim, Norma, and Brad. We pray also for those suffering from Covid-19, those without access to the vaccines, those who are lonely, and those who are grieving the death of a loved one, especially the family and friends of Reenie Esping. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

God our 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 love toward one another and our witness to the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

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 Reene. Assure us of the peace You have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

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.

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.

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SENDING

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BENEDICTION

P. May the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord bring you all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *This Joyful Eastertide*

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
 2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
 3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
 slum - ber till trump from east to west shall
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill my

Refrain

sprung to life this mor - row.
 wake the dead in num - ber. Had Christ, who once was
 pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in vain.

But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en.

DISMISSAL

- P. Christ is Risen!
- C. He is Risen indeed!
- P. Go in peace and share the good news.
- C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God Presiding: Pastor Munter
Organist: Lou Knutson Reader: Terry Dybsetter
Camera: Josh Sumption Projection: James Kamrath/Kendon Knutson
Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason and Jerome Bruns

How to reach us:

Church Office: 507-296-4658
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Pastor's email: pastormunter@gmail.com
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Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson
Shirlee Gabbert, Bill and Karen Pohlen
Bill Ningen, Carol Moon, Sylvia & Jim Pridal
Brad Danielson, Norma Dovre

The family and friends of Reenie Esping

Our Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Reenie Esping who passed away in Alexandria last week. Her funeral will be on Monday, April 19, 2:00 pm at Our Savior's in Canby. Visitation will be one hour before the funeral.

April 11, 2021

General: \$3,029.50 (\$269.50 received through eGiving)
Includes: \$50.00 Easter Offering.