

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 18, 2021



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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In this time of uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, we hope that this service assures everyone of the certainty of God's love and provides hope for all through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

While we worship virtually we use a Service of the Word, knowing that when the virus has passed we will join each other once again at the Table of the Lord.

As it has been a blessing to us to provide this service, we hope it is a blessing to you to receive it.

We'd love to hear from you. Let us know if our services and bulletins are beneficial to you and your weekly devotions.

Worship Leaders:

Deacon Philip Jenks, Homilist

Deacon Peter Slingerland

Eric Hepp, Organist

Beth, Chris, and Eamon Collins

Nancy Slingerland

Carol Reichert

Lisa Stephens



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ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

We Prepare for the Word of God

Prelude

Aria in F Major

G.F. Handel

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

With High Delight Let Us Unite

1. With high delight Let us unite
In songs of sweet jubilation.
You pure in heart, Each take your part,
Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free Forever, he
Is risen and sends to all earth's ends
Good news to save every nation.
2. True God, he first from death has burst
Forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy shall vanquished lie;
His death has been death's undoing.
"And yours shall be like victory
O'er death and grave," said he, who gave
His life for us, life renewing.
3. Let praises ring; give thanks, and bring
To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed by word and deed
To every land, every nation.
So shall his love Give us above,
From misery And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

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.**

The Lessons

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

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? The 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. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And 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.

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

Psalm: 4

**¹Answer 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.**

**²“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

**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, “Who will show us any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

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

**⁸In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

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. 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. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

The Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th Chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

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

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.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ,

Hymn of the Day

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
In death his love shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
He comes to claim the hear and now
And conquer ev'ry place and time.
3. Not throned afar, remotely high,
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
but daily, in the midst of life,
Our Savior with the Father reigns.
4. In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
He suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.
5. Christ is alive! Ascended Lord --
He rules the world his Father made,
Till, in the end, his love adored
Shall be to all on earth displayed.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' 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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell.
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

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.

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 (local concerns for creation may be named). 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. 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.

Other intercessions are 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. Today we especially remember our sister Jean who joined the church triumphant last weekend. 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.

The Peace

The Peace of the LORD be with you always.
And also with you.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior has taught us, so we pray.
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

We are Blessed and Sent

Blessing

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, ☧ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



Sending Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

1. Good Christian men, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King:
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
2. The Lord of Life is risen for ay:
Bring flowers of song to strew his way;
Let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
3. Praise we in songs of victory
That Love, that Life, which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
4. Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed.
Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Overture (From Fireworks Music)

G.F. Handel