

St. John's Order of Worship

April 26, 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

Welcome

Has the change of pace brought on by COVID 19 made you feel overwhelmed at times? Have you felt sad or angry? Do you often feel like you're walking alone through all of this?

I imagine this is how some of Jesus's followers felt after His death too. Their lives were turned upside down! Consider the two men walking on the road to Emmaus. We'll read about them in Luke chapter 24 today. They were overcome with sorrow as they walked away from Jerusalem, away from the place where their Lord had died.

The Bible says: "While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them." Jesus drew *near* to them, and then He *walked* with them.

Our God does the same for you and me today. He draws near to us, even in our sorrow, hurt, anger, and confusion. He draws near to us and He walks with us through it. *This* is our hope. *This* is our comfort. Jesus is alive! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! And He is with us even now.

Opening Song

Hallelujah For The Cross [Chris McClarney]

Verse 1 I would be hopeless without Your goodness;
I would be desperate without Your love.
A slave to the darkness If it wasn't for the cross!

Verse 2 You have won me with Your kindness,
Chased me down when I was lost;
Where would I be If it wasn't for the cross?

Chorus Hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus!
I was a pris'ner; now I'm not!
With Your blood You bought my freedom;
Hallelujah for the cross!

Verse 3 All my shame was met with mercy.
Now Your mercy will be my song.
And oh the glory, Oh the power of the cross!

Bridge By Your stripes, I'm healed! By Your death, I live!
The pow'r of sin: overcome!
It is finished! It is done!

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

(silence for reflection & self examination)

P: Together we pray:

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Absolution

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, through the death and resurrection of Your Son, You've raised us to new life, granting us hope and salvation. We thank You for this gift. Grant to us and all Your faithful people gladness and eternal joy as we see Jesus, our Savior, walking with us through all of life. Help us to recognize Him at work, guiding and leading at all times and in all places. We ask this in His name, our risen Savior Jesus, and the people of God said:

C: Amen.

New Testament Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36–41

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-25

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:13-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Song

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen [LSB 474]

Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

**Refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

Walking the way, Christ in the center
Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. **Refrain**

Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me. **Refrain**

Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. **Refrain**

City of God, Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, saints and archangels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! **Refrain**

Children's Message

Message: 3rd Sunday of Easter
"Walking and Talking with Jesus"
Pastor Jeff Hesse

Offering Song

Still Rolls the Stone [Bob Bennett] – *Special music by the Brenckle Family*

I tore off my grave clothes
And cried a pool of tears
For the voice of the Living One
Who spoke the stars and spheres
Has called me from my darkness
And led me to this place
Where the dead leap
And the blind see His face

Still rolls the stone, still rolls the stone
Still rolls the stone from the grave

Hearts aflame with mercy
Like the sun in midnight sky
While the doubter shrugs his shoulders
And the cynic wonders why
But as it is in Heaven
So now we proclaim
The Lord tells us here to do the same

In the still of a Sunday morning
A grave stands open wide
And a promise kept
While the world slept
Means that no one is inside

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

ALL: 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.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you
And be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
And † give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Song

Good Grace [Hillsong United]

Verse 1 People come together,
Strange as neighbors; our blood is one.
Children of generations,
Of every nation, of Kingdom come.

Chorus Don't let your heart be troubled;
Hold your head up high. Don't fear no evil;
Fix your eyes on this one truth:
God is madly in love with you.
Take courage, hold on, be strong,
Remember where our help comes from.

Verse 2 Jesus, our redemption,
Our salvation is in His blood.
Jesus, Light of heaven,
Friend forever; His Kingdom come.

Bridge Swing wide all you heavens;
Let the praise go up as the walls come down.
All creation, everything with breath, repeat the sound.
All His children, clean hands, pure hearts,
Good grace, good God; His Name is Jesus!