

**Thursday, April 15, 2021**  
**The Third Sunday in Easter**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

C **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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

## **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 Let us pray.

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.**

## **EPISTLE: 1 John 3:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>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.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 4**

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>“You mortals, how long will you dishon- | or my glory;  
how long will you love illusions and seek | after lies?”

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders | for the faithful;  
the LORD will hear me | when I call.

<sup>4</sup>Tremble, then, and | do not sin;  
speak to your heart in silence up- | on your bed.

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed | sacrifices,  
and put your trust | in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>Many are saying, “Who will show us | any good?”  
Let the light of your face shine upon | us, O LORD.

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness | in my heart,  
more than when grain and | wine abound.

<sup>8</sup>In peace, I will lie | down and sleep;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me | rest secure.

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

A The holy gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.”

A The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **ACTS: Acts 3:11-26**

<sup>11</sup>While [the crippled beggar Peter had just healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. <sup>12</sup>When Peter saw it, he 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? <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, <sup>20</sup>so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, <sup>21</sup>who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets. <sup>22</sup>Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. <sup>23</sup>And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out of the people.' <sup>24</sup>And all the prophets, as many as have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, also predicted these days. <sup>25</sup>You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant that God gave to your ancestors, saying to Abraham, 'And in your descendants all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' <sup>26</sup>When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you, to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

**P** Word of God, word of life.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

## **SILENCE FOR REFLECTION**

## **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**

**A** 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.*

**A** Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter and 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.**

**A** 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.**

A 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.**

A 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.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now and 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, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*Offering plates are located in the back by the bulletins.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

- A God of love,  
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.  
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.  
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;  
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
- C **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

- 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 our thanks and praise**

## PREFACE

- P 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,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
We join with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
proclaiming your name and Good News.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** Holy, living, and loving God,  
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,  
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,  
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.  
We give you thanks for Jesus  
who, living among us,  
healed the sick,  
fed the hungry,  
and with a love stronger than death,  
gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was handed over,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Remembering, therefore,  
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,  
we await your promised life for all this dying world.  
Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:  
carry us in your arms from death to life,  
that we may live as your chosen ones,  
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**C** **Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P The risen Christ invites us to this table.  
Come, eat and be satisfied.

## **COMMUNION**

P The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Wellspring of joy,  
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.  
Satisfy the hunger still around us,  
and send us as joyful witnesses,  
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

**P** God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **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.**

## **DISMISSAL**

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