

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2020 – 10 am

AS WE GATHER

The seven Sundays of Easter celebrate the greatest of all victories—the defeat of sin, death, and the devil by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The theme of victory fills each of the Sundays of Easter and radiates out the joy of the first Easter morning week by week. One Easter hymn writer exhorts: “Let hymns of praise His triumph tell” (*LSB* 464:3). There is so much to be sung and to be told about the victory of Jesus, our Lord—and we are the ones gifted with the opportunity to do the singing and the telling in our generation.



✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

465 v. 1-3

1. Now all the vault of Heav'n resounds
In praise of love that still abound,
Christ hath triumphed, He is living!""
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear,
Repeat their song of glory here,
Christ has triumphed, Christ has triumphed!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
2. Eternal is the gift He brings,
Therefore our heart with rapture sings,
Christ has triumphed, He is living!
Now still He comes to give us life,
And by His presence stills all strife
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
3. O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through your triumph,
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say,
Christ has triumphed, He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6, adapted*

Pastor: Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: death no longer has dominion over Him.

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead. Alleluia!

People: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People: He has put all things under His feet. Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our creator and preserver, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are stained by sin from our very beginnings. We have sinned again and again in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves and have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for all of our many sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us victory over all that oppresses us, and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: In His boundless mercy, God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him for restoration and renewal. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, and grant you a life on earth in which you tell of His greatness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" #465 v. 4

4. Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heavenly blessed sing,

Christ has triumphed, Alleluia!
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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✂ WORD ✂

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *Acts 2:14a, 36–41* (Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.)

Pastor: But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words . . . Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” 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?” 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. 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.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 116:1–14*

People: I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!” Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, He saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. I believed, even when I spoke, “I am greatly afflicted”; I said in my alarm, “All mankind are liars.” What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

EPISTLE *1 Peter 1:17–25* (Peter reminds us that we redeemed by the blood of Christ.)

Pastor: 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, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 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.

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of

the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:13–35* (The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. 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. 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?” 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, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 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. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 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. 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.” And He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if He were going farther, 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. When he was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And he vanished from their sight. 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?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

"God Loved the World So That He Gave" #571

1. God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.
2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.
3. God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
4. Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
5. If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.
6. Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

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SERMON

"The Resurrection Makes a Big Difference" (Luke 24:13-35)

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

People: 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition is offered:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy;
People: Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

People: **Amen.**

HYMN "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" #477

1. Alleluia, alleluia!
hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled
Jesus Christ, the king of glory,
now is risen from the dead.
2. Alleluia, Christ is risen!
death at last has met defeat:
see the ancient powers of evil
in confusion and retreat;
once he died, and once was buried:
now he lives for evermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's redeemer,
whom we worship and adore.
3. Alleluia, alleluia!
glory be to God on high:
alleluia to the Saviour
who has gained the victory;
alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity:
alleluia, alleluia
to the Triune Majesty!

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, sts. 1, 3; rev. Jubilate
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