

# Third Sunday of Easter

*April 17, 2021*

*5:00pm - Bethlehem Lutheran Church † Chesterton, IN*

*April 18, 2021*

*8:30am - Bethlehem Lutheran Church † Chesterton, IN*

*10:30am – St. Luke United Lutheran † Trail Creek, IN*

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## † GATHERING †

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.<br/>The cross stands empty to the sky.<br/>Let streets and homes with praises ring.<br/>Love, drowned in death, shall never die.</p> <p>2 Christ is alive! No longer bound<br/>to distant years in Palestine,<br/>but saving, healing, here and now,<br/>and touching ev'ry place and time.</p> <p>3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,<br/>where color, scorn, or wealth divide,</p> | <p>Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,<br/>and lives, where even hope has died.</p> <p>4 Women and men, in age and youth,<br/>can feel the Spirit, hear the call,<br/>and find the way, the life, the truth,<br/>revealed in Jesus, freed for all.</p> <p>5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring<br/>good news to this and every age,<br/>till earth and sky and ocean ring<br/>with joy, with justice, love, and praise.</p> |
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**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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*This is the Feast*

*Spoken*

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,**

**and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

**Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING**

*Acts 3:12-19*

*After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing 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.*

<sup>12</sup>[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?"<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."

The Word of the Lord.

**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 dishonor 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 upon**

**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.**

## SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-17

*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.*

<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.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia. Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the scriptures. Alleluia.**

(Luke 24:32)

## HOLY GOSPEL

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.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**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."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### *Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow*

LSB 476

*(Lyrics for meditation only)*

- 1 Who are you who walk in sorrow  
Down Emmaus' barren road,  
Hearts distraught and hope defeated,  
Bent beneath grief's crushing load?  
Nameless mourners, we will join you,  
We who also mourn our dead;  
We have stood by graves unyielding,  
Eaten death's bare, bitter bread.
- 2 Who is this who joins our journey,  
Walking with us stride by stride?  
Unknown Stranger, can You fathom  
Depths of grief for one who died?  
Then the wonder! When we told You  
How our dreams to dust have turned,  
Then You opened wide the Scriptures  
Till our hearts within us burned.
- 3 Who are You? Our hearts are opened  
In the breaking of the bread—  
Christ the victim, now the victor  
Living, risen from the dead!  
Great companion on our journey,
- 4 Still surprise us with Your grace!  
Make each day a new Emmaus;  
On our hearts Your image trace!
- 4 Who are we who travel with You  
On our way through life to death?  
Women, men, the young, the aging,  
Wakened by the Spirit's breath!  
At the font You claim and name us,  
Born of water and the Word;  
At the table still You feed us,  
Host us as our risen Lord!
- 5 "Alleluia! Alleluia!"  
Is the Easter hymn we sing!  
Take our life, our joy, our worship  
As the gift of love we bring.  
You have formed us all one people  
Called from ev'ry land and race.  
Make the Church Your servant body,  
Sent to share Your healing grace!

## APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith, using the words of 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 Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
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**

Let us pray to our victorious Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people.

*A brief silence*

Lord Jesus, we can scarcely imagine seeing you face to face. Give us grace, when it's hard to see you in ourselves and each other, to cling to that promise, and to catch a glimpse of your love shining through.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make you Church in your image. In its words, let unbelievers hear your challenge, forgiveness, and invitation. In its deeds, let them see your love. In its worship, let them see your beauty. In its cross-bearing, let them see your life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give your persecuted sisters and brothers the grace to speak St. Peter's words to their tormentors: "You act in ignorance; repent, believe in him; and be forgiven."

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make this congregation bold to proclaim you as our risen Lord. Help us to speak and act in ways that reflect your holiness and love to those around us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray on behalf of all whose needs of body, soul and mind are great. Especially we lift before you the needs of all those on our prayer lists and on our hearts and minds. Change their suffering into patient endurance, and their sorrow into enduring hope. Transform shame, guilt, and despair into hope-filled repentance, and the power of death into living joy.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to our children your dearest blessings. Teach them to trust you with all their heart, and to find happiness in sharing your love with their friends and family. This week we lift up Judy, Audrey, Shelby, Gerry, Darlene, Amanda, Jacob, and William, who are your dear children.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for fulfilling all your promises to those who died trusting in you. Comfort those who mourn. Walk with us throughout our life's journey. Transform us into your blest likeness. On that great day when we see you face to face, let us with perfect clarity see you also in the faces of all whom you have redeemed.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**✠ MEAL ✠**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray you, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE**

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.

And so, 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,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
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.  
As often as you drink it of it,  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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 today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
**have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
**have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
**grant us peace. Amen**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

When we eat this bread we share the body of Christ.  
When we drink this cup we share the blood of Christ.  
**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread,  
as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION & SPECIAL MUSIC**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We thank you for your great gift of love, your Son Jesus Christ. May we who have received his body and blood bear the light of his love into the world, to your glory and for the healing of our world.

**Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## ✠ SENDING ✠

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

## SENDING HYMN

### *At the Lamb's High Feast*

*ELW 362, v. 1,2,4,8*

*(Lyrics are for meditation only)*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing<br>praise to our victorious king,<br>who has washed us in the tide<br>flowing from his wounded side. Alleluia!                | 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,<br>paschal victim, paschal bread;<br>with sincerity and love<br>eat we manna from above. Alleluia!                    |
| 2 Praise we Christ, whose love divine<br>gives his sacred blood for wine,<br>gives his body for the feast—<br>Christ the victim, Christ the priest.<br>Alleluia! | 8 Father, who the crown shall give,<br>Savior, by whose death we live,<br>Spirit, guide through all our days:<br>Three in One, your name we praise.<br>Alleluia |

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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