

Sunday, April 18, 2021
Third Sunday of Easter

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“This Joyful Eastertide”

Sharon Gray, organist

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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 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!**

WELCOMING SONG

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”

ELW 385

**Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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GREETING

☞ *Alleluia! Christ is risen.*

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

☞ *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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
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.

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!**

SPECIAL MUSIC *“There’s A Song In My Heart That My Lips Cannot Tell”*

Phil Lewis, pianica

arr. Phil Lewis

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FIRST READING – Pam Farrell, 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.

¹²Peter 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 this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified Jesus, the servant of God whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though Pilate had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in the name of Jesus, 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.

¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what had been foretold through all the prophets, that the Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Reflection

This text takes place at the temple after Peter and John healed a man who had to beg because he couldn’t walk. What does Peter say happened? (verse 12) Who does he say didn’t heal the man? Who does he remind the people of? (verse 13) What does he accuse them of? (verses 14-15) How does he say the man was healed? (verse 16) What does Peter accuse the people

of? (verse 17) Peter doesn't just accuse them, he tells them that God used their ignorance for God's own ends. What were they? (verse 18) What does he call on them to do? (verse 19) What do you remember Peter doing as we read about him during Holy Week? (see Mark 14:66-72) How do you account for Peter's change in behavior? What difference did Jesus' resurrection make for Peter?

PSALM 4— led by Howard Harmsen

- 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.

Reflection

I'm sure Peter knew the psalms, including this one. While he did not arrange our lectionary, the people who did, found this psalm to be appropriate when we remember Peter's acts after Jesus' resurrection. What did the psalmist ask of God? (verse 1) Verse 2 is God's answer to the psalmist and all the people who call on God and ask God to help them. What does God say? (verse) What is the psalmist's declaration of faith? (verse 3) What does the psalmist remind people to do? (verses 4-5) Not everyone hears the psalmist's plea to them. What are they saying? (verse 6) Now the psalmist responds to God's answer to prayer. What does the psalmist attribute to God's mercy? (verse 7) How does the psalmist respond to God's answer? (verse 8) Do you think perhaps Peter was comforted by this psalm? How might this psalm comfort you?

SECOND READING – Marilyn Hunt, reading

1 John 3:1-7

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.

¹See 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 God. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when it is revealed, we will be like God, for we will see God as God is. ³And all who have this hope in

God purify themselves, just as the Son is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that Christ was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in the Son sins; no one who sins has either seen or known the Son. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as Christ is righteous.

Reflection

What has God the Father of Jesus given us? (verse 1) Why does John the letter writer say we are called children of God? Why does the world not recognize us as God's children? Once again, John reminds us ("Beloved") that we are God's children. (verse 2) What will we become? If we don't know that, then who will we be like? What will we do in hope? (verse 3) Why will we act this way? What happens when someone sins? (verse 4) If we sin and are lawless, who comes to rescue us? (verse 5) How can Jesus do that? What happens if we abide (stay) in Jesus? (verse 6) How will we know that we are righteous? (verse 7) Why are we righteous? How can we know that?

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

ELW 172

**Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

ELW Song #172

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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.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look 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."

⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then Jesus 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." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

Reflection

Where were the disciples on the evening of the day Jesus rose from the dead? (See Luke 24:31) What happened as they were gathered together? (verse 36) What was the reaction of the disciples? (verse 37) How did Jesus reassure them? (verses 38-40) Why do you suppose that “in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering”? (verse 41) I can imagine how we would react if we saw someone dear to us who had died suddenly appearing before us—sort of like the disciples, but maybe even more so. What did Jesus do to convince them? (verses 42-43) How did he explain to them what had happened with his resurrection? (verse 44) Note that when he “opened their minds to understand the scriptures,” (verse 45) the scriptures he is talking about are what we know as the Old Testament, because the letters and gospels we know as the New Testament had not been written yet. How did he explain the scriptures? (verses 46-47) What does he tell the disciples about their role in what must happen next? (verse 48) Which disciples is he talking about when he says “You are witnesses of these things”? Only the few gathered together? Or are we also included?

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Joyce Stroud

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SONG OF THE DAY

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

ELW 538

**The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live. Repeat**

**The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today. Repeat**

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PRAYER SONG

“Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying”

ELW 752

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION –led by Brenda Bass & David Bezona

David Bezona, Kathy Wessler, Helen Koch (friend of Irene Wall), Alan Dunning, Kay Howard, Keith Hohly, Rick & Cyndi Zebelean (friends of Sharmyn Thompson), Sylvia Rush (grandmother of Felicia Rush Blanc), Lynn Ann Flora (friend of Laurel Goforth), Keira Wall (great-niece of Irene Wall), Dorothy Masteller, Dee Rasmussen, and the family of Rosalie Morse

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.

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. 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. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: David, Kathy, Helen, Alan, Kay, Keith, Rick & Cyndi, Sylvia, Lynn Ann, Keira, Dorothy, Dee, the family of Rosalie Morse, and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. 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.

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. 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!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P *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!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

A *And also with you!*

DIALOGUE

P *The Lord be with you.*

A *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.
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

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**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n 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,
hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P *Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

☞ Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

☞ O God of resurrection and new life:
*Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.*

☞ Come, Holy Spirit.

☞ Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
*Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.*

☞ Come, Holy Spirit.

**☞ With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.**

☞ Amen!

LORD'S PRAYER

**☞ 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. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION

BLESSING

P *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

A **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P *Wellspring of joy,*

A **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. Amen!**

BENEDICTION

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.

A **Amen!**

SENDING SONG

“Celebrate Jesus”

**Celebrate Jesus celebrate
Celebrate Jesus celebrate
Celebrate Jesus celebrate
Celebrate Jesus celebrate**

He is risen He is risen

**And He lives forevermore
He is risen He is risen
Come on and celebrate
The resurrection of our Lord**

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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“Song of Joy”
Sharon Gray, piano

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Instruments: Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Roger Lenander | Guitar/Bass – Jim Pierce

Song leaders and vocal talents: Sharmyn Thompson, Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge,
Carol Bunge, Kathy Wessler, and Roger Lenander

Reflections on Today's Readings written by Rev. Juel Pierce

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