

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

Easter 3

April 23, 2023



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Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org)

Bill Peters

(#590-0727 – cell; email pastorrandy@oneinchristlutheranparish.org)

Randy Baldwin

web page - <http://www.oneinchristlutheranparish.org>

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

HE IS RISEN!

We joyfully welcome all guest and visitors who are worshiping with us this morning. We gather to celebrate our Lord's glorious resurrection.

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

*CONFESSION

God heard my voice and my prayers

when I was in the depth of distress and despair.

Praise the Lord!

What shall I return to the Lord for all this goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation

and call on the name of the Lord.

We praise you, O God, Creator of the universe, holy beyond our imagining.

We are amazed that our often jumbled and mumbled words are heard by you.

We, who so often block our ears to your words, are overwhelmed by such grace and mercy.

You have blessed our lives with even more gifts - by making your limitless love visible in Jesus Christ, your Son, our risen Lord.

What can we offer for such gifts except our praise and thanksgiving and the service of our lives?

Accept them, we pray, for we offer them with in awe over the depth of your care for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Risen Lord Jesus, what is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

When we are so full of ourselves, it is all too easy to block you right out of our lives.

Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture that obscures the signs pointing to you.

Perhaps we are guilty of being slow of heart when we don't recognize you in our neighbor, or in the form of the poor or the dispossessed.

Our eyes and ears have become so crammed with the sights and sounds of living that we simply fail to see you or to recognize your voice.

Risen Lord Jesus, help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders our awareness of your presence with us. Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing presence, so that, like those travelers on the road to Emmaus, we too, hasten to share this great good news with others.

Amen.

***EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

We recognize God's great love for the world revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus...who came into the world not to condemn it but to save it. Those who believe in him are not condemned.

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

“Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”

131

*Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!
Gratefully our hearts adore him
as his light once more appears;
bowing down in joy before him,
rising up from griefs and tears.*

*Refrain Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!*

*Christ is risen! All the sadness
of our Lenten fast is o'er;
through the open gates of gladness
he returns to life once more;
death and hell before him bending
see him rise, the victor now,
angels on his steps attending,
glory round his wounded brow. Refrain*

*Christ is risen! All the sorrow
that last evening round him lay
now has found a glorious morrow
in the rising of today.
See the grave its firstfruits giving,
springing up from holy ground;
he was dead, but now is living;
he was lost, but he is found. Refrain*

*Christ is risen! Henceforth never
death or hell shall us enthrall;
be we Christ's, in him forever
we have triumphed over all.
All the doubting and dejection
of our trembling hearts have ceased;
hail the day of resurrection!
Let us rise and keep the feast. Refrain*

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

***APOSTOLIC 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.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** "Glory to God..."


Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

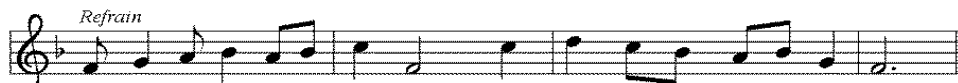


1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we




wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.


Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are

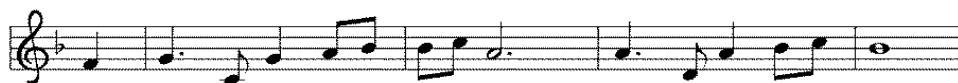


seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.


Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

Sing thru 2 times

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
Hal - le - lu - jah.
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But 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 took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Sweet Hosannas Ring”

Youth Chime Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Randy Baldwin

SONG OF THE DAY

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

148

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958 Text from Oxford Book of Carols © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved

***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.**

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY SONG**

“Create in Me...”

ELW # 186

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

***SENDING SONG** *“Thine Is the Glory”*

145

*Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.*

*Refrain Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!*

*Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting! Refrain*

*No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. Refrain*

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

***DISMISSAL**

He is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

Go in peace. Serve the risen Christ.

Alleluia! He is Risen Indeed! Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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Accompaniment along the Way

Today's gospel is a story of accompaniment. The two disciples are walking along, grief-stricken, trying to make sense of "the things that have taken place . . . in these days" (Luke 24:18), and Jesus simply joins them. He walks alongside them in their grief, he inquires about their questions, he meets them where they are.

That might be the most profound piece of this whole narrative—that Jesus doesn't try to explain to them what has happened, doesn't try to set the record straight, doesn't try to change their hearts or minds. He simply accompanies them on the journey and shoulders their questions and grief together with them.

Isn't this the very work of the church, week in and week out, as we gather for worship? We come alongside each other, meeting one another where we're at, whether that's in deep grief or celebration or apathy or any other emotion under the sun. We show up to see one other. We show up to be seen, to be accompanied along the way.

And when we gather at the table for the breaking of the bread, Jesus makes himself known to us in ways we cannot explain, as he did for those two disciples in that village of Emmaus. He meets us where we're at and then accompanies us on our way, strengthening us to do the same for those we meet out in the world, for those we meet along the way of our own journeys.

What a gift this is in this time and place, when being right is valued above all else, when so many people are in the business of setting the record straight at all costs. What a gift this is to us. What a gift we're invited to be, in this same way, to others.