

# Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 17, 2021  
6:30 p.m.

## The Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“Come, Lord, Restore Us”

Mike Newman

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WELCOME

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

(Please stand as able)

## GATHERING SONG

vs. 1, 4 #143 (Green Hymnal)

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

### Soloist

1 Now all the vault of heav’n resounds  
in praise of love that still abounds:  
“Christ has 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!

### Congregation

4 **Adoring praises now we bring  
and with the heav’nly 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!**

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesange*, Koln, 1623

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## GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

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.**

(Please be seated)

## WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

**FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19****Bible p. 92 NT**

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."

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM (Responsive reading)****Psalm 4**

<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

**<sup>2</sup>How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?**

<sup>3</sup>But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.

**<sup>4</sup>When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.**

<sup>5</sup>Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

**<sup>6</sup>There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"**

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

**<sup>8</sup>I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7****Bible p. 188 NT**

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.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as able)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Congregation Sings**

**C: Listen! You nations of the world  
Listen to the Word of the Lord  
Announce it from coast to coast  
Declare it to distant islands**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

**GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48****Bible p. 69 NT**

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.

<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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Alan

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

HYMN OF THE DAY

vs. 1, 3 #148 (Green Hymnal)

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

### **Congregation**

**1 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.**

**3 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.**

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols* © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved

(Please stand as able)

## **WE CONFESS OUR FAITH**

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

(Please be seated)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: 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.*

P: 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.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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.**

P: Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. We pray for those around the world affected by the pandemic. Especially we pray for our first responders, healthcare workers, hospital staff, nursing homes, their residents and staff, prisons and their inmates and staff, colleges and universities, their teachers and students, those who are sickened by the virus and those who are dying. 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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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.

**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.**

## WE OFFER OUR GIFTS, TITHES, AND SACRIFICES

### PASSING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

### HEALING PRAYER

(Please stand as able)

### MEAL

COMMUNION HYMN “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

#### Soloist

(Refrain) Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness,  
Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.

#### Congregation

1. **Christ the Lord to us said;  
I am wine, I am bread, I am wine, I am bread,  
Give to all who thirst and hunger. (Refrain)**

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. 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.**

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### LORD'S PRAYER (Spoken)

**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.**

## 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.**

## WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

(Please be seated)

## THE SENDING SONG

vs. 1 #197 (Green Hymnal)

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

### Congregation

1 **O living Bread from heaven,  
how well you feed your guest!  
The gifts that you have given  
have filled my heart with rest.  
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,  
oh, cup that heals our woes!  
My heart, this gift possessing,  
with praises overflows!**

Text: Johann Rist, 1606-1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: This is the body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his Grace. Come to the table at God’s invitation.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

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