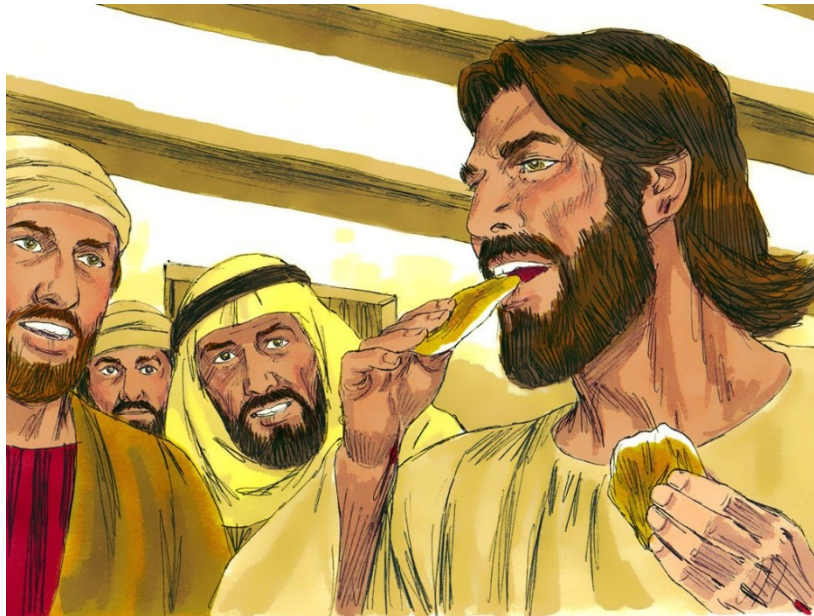


**Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024**



Thought: The disbelief and wonder the disciples express to the risen Jesus is both surprising and comforting (Luke 24:37, 41). Thank goodness that, like the disciples, when we are called by Jesus, he has already accounted for our failures and shortcomings to recognize and follow him.

Isn't it interesting that much like in the other resurrection appearances, the reality of the world – touch, see and now eating, brings the Risen Christ into the wonder of a world where we can witness to our faith, sharing the miracle of new life.

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle. – Albert Einstein

Prelude – Jill Rimington

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

P: Just as the Risen Jesus came to his disciples and said, "Peace be with you." So we come to worship and share the joy of that same Peace.
Peace be with you!

C: And also with you.

Call to Worship

L: Come children of God, let us worship God.

C: We will worship God and keep God's commandments.

L: Come, blessed recipients of Christ's peace, let us worship God.

C: We will worship God and live as peacemakers in Christ's name.

Gathering Hymn – "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" ELW #392 vss. 1-3

<https://youtu.be/rI-nTy0iHmU>

by First-Plymouth Church

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Divine Joy, we confess that we are people motivated more by fear than love, and we don't know why.

A time of silence for reflection

P: We know how to build walls and make rules and set boundaries.

C: We know how to feel guilty. We are good at trying to make ourselves (and everyone else) conform to some ideal we have decided you want. We confess we don't know what to do with your unconditional love. We don't know how to respond to your joyful surprises. We are afraid to

stand under the flood of your miracle and wonder and goodness and healing. Fold us in your comforting presence and bless us into courage so that we can join the dance at your side.

P: "Thus it is written, that the Messiah had to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins must be proclaimed in his name." That word is now proclaimed to you.

C: We have seen the Lord! Alleluia!

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen.

Easter Praise - "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" ELW #367 Vss. 1&3

https://youtu.be/-hnc-N9_Drk

by Samm Hills Music

Prayer of the Day

L: Heavenly Father, as the disciples, enshrouded in fear, trembled in the darkness of the upper room,

C: so does this world dwell in darkness...tremble in fear.

L: Heavenly Father, as your Son brought the light of his presence,

C: the bright joy of the resurrection,

L: to the disciples, dispelling their fear, inspiring hope,

C: so are we brightened by Jesus' living presence.

L: Open, we pray, the doors of this upper room.

C: Lead us out into the world.

L: Then, glowing with the borrowed light of your Son, we will live the lives that we profess:

C: "The living Jesus is our Lord!"

L: Through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now...

C: and forever. Amen.

The Word

First reading – Acts 3:12-19

Health and forgiveness through the risen Jesus.

12[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? 13The 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. 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 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. 17"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. 19Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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

Psalm 4

Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.

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.

“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”

Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?” Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.

You 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.

Second reading – 1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God.

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 him. 2Beloved, 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. 3And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 4Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. 7Little 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

P: Alleluia!

**C: Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the scriptures.
Alleluia. (Luke 24:32)**

Holy Gospel – Luke 24:36b-48

<https://youtu.be/vh0N0vr5ybU?si=ghRsKolFKhqdsQpG>

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you O Lord.**

You are witnesses of these things.

36b Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 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.” 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence. 44 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.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 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, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.”

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

Children of God Time

<https://youtu.be/TR3WJYm08Qg?si=ihPcrAw46qKcGMXJ>

Message – “Resurrection Responses”

<https://youtu.be/uLu8WYvbRXM?si=2sK2KVtSNtxy5EpA>

Hymn of the Day – “Where Charity and Love Prevail” ELW #359

<https://youtu.be/RTbnOall7oA>

by Chris Brunelle

Second Article of the Nicene Creed

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray
for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

L: O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy
meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that
we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water
to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in
all its variety. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty (*especially*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry (*ministry context may be named*). Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died (*especially*). As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

Offering/Offertory Music – “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ #674

Offertory Prayer

L: You have given us life, O God.

C: You have given us new life in the resurrection of your Son from the dead.

L: We offer our lives to you

C: even as we offer these gifts.
L: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.
C: 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

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer
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.

Distribution

Communion Music – Jill Rimington

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

L: As once you ate in the presence of your disciples,

C: proving to them your presence was real,

L: so have you shared this meal with us.

C: Unite us in your presence.

L: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction from Numbers 6 – Pastor

Sending Hymn – “Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing” ELW #389

<https://youtu.be/fD8pxDgTZZU>

by Sanctuary Choir

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Jill Rimington

