



April 23, 2023

The Third Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

♪ Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

~Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

♪ Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. ~Jesus is...

♪ Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me. ~Jesus is...

♪ Weeping be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.

Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!” Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. ~Jesus is...

♪ City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,

River of life, Saints and arch-angels, Sing with creation to God the I AM! ~Jesus is....

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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54b-57

Confession and Absolution

As human beings, we inherited futile ways and deeds. We were born in sin, and we daily sin much. Though we may try to do what is right, we always fall short, burdened by mistakes and the weight of sin. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to draw near, confess our sins, and long to hear His living and abiding Word.

A Time of Silence

Heavenly Father,

We have not been pure of heart and mind and soul. We have not obeyed Your truth.

We have not loved one another as we should. Forgive us for our futility, renew us by

Your resurrection, and lead us back to the lives You want for us, on account of

Jesus. Amen.

Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“This Is the Feast”

~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...

♪ Power, riches, wisdom and strength,

And honor, blessing, and glory are His. ~This is the feast...

♪ 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...

♪ For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ~This is the feast....

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First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:

...³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Peter 1:17–25

¹⁷And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for

“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers, and the flower falls,

²⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response Hymn

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

♪ 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, allelu-ia!

♪ Eternal is the gift He brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Now still He comes to give us life

And by His presence stills all strife.

Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia, alleluia, allelu-ia!

♪ O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above

That we conquer Through Your triumph; Grant grace sufficient for life’s day

That by our lives we truly say:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Alleluia, alleluia, allelu-ia!

Please Stand

♪ 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, allelu-ia!

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The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, Your risen Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:13–35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While

they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up 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 happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even 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 him they did not see.” ²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“This Joyful Eastertide”

♪ This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sor---row!

My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this mor---row;

~Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison, Our faith had been in vain:

But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen; But now has Christ aris--en!

♪ Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the ri---ver;

Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliv---er: ~Had Christ,...

♪ My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slum---ber

Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in num---ber: ~Had Christ,....

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Proclamation of the Word

“Total Recognition”

Luke 24:13–35

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Lord, in Your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“The Strife Is O'er”

~Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

♪ The strife is o'er, the battle done; Now is the victor's triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

♪ The pow'rs of death have done their worst, But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

♪ The three sad days have quickly sped, He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

♪ He broke the age-bound chains of hell; The bars from heav'ns high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

♪ Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee, From death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!

~Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Postlude