

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213
April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter

Introduction for the Day: The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Lord's Day. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures: the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

(Please stand as you are able)

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ.

We were baptized so that we might have a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God our Creator.

Let us therefore turn to God in true repentance, that our sins might be forgiven.

(We pause for meditation and self-examination)

Almighty and all-merciful God,

We are dead in trespasses and sin; we have no power to rise. We have brought sorrow and darkness where you once said, "Let there be light." We have offended you and others and are sorry for our offenses.

But Christ is risen.

Risen indeed!

Since we have been united with him in a death like his,

we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. For his sake we ask you, O God, forgive our sins and free us to live a new life in Jesus. Let us be raised with Christ.

“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.” Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

We have seen the risen Lord! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn

#361 The Day of Resurrection!

Please meditate on the hymn text as it is being played.

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad, the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God. From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free, our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth its song begin, the round world keep high triumph and all that is there-in. Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend; for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end!

Text: John of Damascus, c.696-c.754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Tune: Ellacombe 76 76D. Music: German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X.L. Hartig, Meldien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche, 1833.

Opening Litany for the Third Sunday of Easter and Apostolic Greeting

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Living Lord, you revealed to your disciples that by your death you saved us from sin.

Open our minds to understand the depth of your forgiveness.

Living Lord, you revealed to your disciples that they had been given the mission to spread the Good News.

Open our minds to understand that we, too, have been given the power to proclaim your Good News.

The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

Word

(Please be seated)

First Reading

Acts 3:12-19

After hearing a crippled man, Peter preaches to the people 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.

A reading from Acts, Chapter 3.

[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? 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.

But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 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.

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 4, Read Responsively

The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (Ps. 4:3)

Let us read responsively from Psalm 4.

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.

In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second 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.

A reading from 1st John, Chapter 3.

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.

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. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

#366 The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

Please meditate on the hymn text as it is being played.

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!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Text: Symphonia Sirenum; Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909. Tune: Victory 888 Alleluias. Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525-1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823-1889.

(Please stand as you are able)

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.

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O risen Lord!

Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 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.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

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.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to you, O risen Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Marilyn Miller

Hymn of the Day

#379 Now the Green Blade Rises

Please meditate on the hymn text as it is being played.

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.

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.

Tune: Noël Nouvelet 11 10 10 11. Music: French carol. Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958. Text © Oxford University Press. Used with permission. Onelicense.net A-703603. John Mason Neal, 1818-1866, alt. Tune: O Filii et Filiae. 888 with Alleluias. Music: French tune, 15th cent.

(Please stand as you are able)

Profession of Faith

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

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.

...We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

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.

The Peace of Christ

Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled." The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

Musical Offering [Video 4-15-2018] *In Thee Is Gladness* arr. by Daniel Kallman
Senior Choir

Offertory Prayer

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.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

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

Eucharistic Prayer

Healing Liturgy

We are all in our various places but together in time to hear the Word of God, pray for those in need, and ask God's blessing on those who seek healing and wholeness through Christ our Lord.

Look upon us with mercy and bless us with your healing Spirit.

Bring us comfort amid pain, light to illuminate our darkness,

And strengthen us in our journey.

Healing Litany

Let us pray. Living God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing.

When afraid, **give us courage;**

when afflicted, **give us patience;**

when dejected, **give us hope;**

and when alone, **assure us of the support of your holy people.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Healing Prayer

Let us pray. O Creator and Mighty God,

you have promised strength for the weak, rest for the laborers, light for the way,

grace for the trials, help from above, unfailing sympathy, undying love.

O Creator, and Mighty God, help us to continue in your promise.

Amen.

A time of Reflection [Video and live Music]

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat, and be satisfied.

(Please be seated)

Communion Hymn

#481 Come to the Table

Please meditate on the hymn text.

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation; received from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942. Tune: Come to the Table 88 87 87 87. Music: Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956. Text and Music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music. Used with permission. OneLicense.net A-703603.