

3rd Sunday of Easter



**Then he opened their minds
to understand the scriptures**

April 18, 2021



Ascension Lutheran Church

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All are welcome!

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community**, **communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

Introduction

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 Sunday. 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.

Welcome to Worship

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Song

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

- 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! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Oh, 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, alleluia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.
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P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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.

All Amen

P The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love and wisdom of God,
and the light and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.

Kyrie and Hymn of Praise

Presider:

♪ ♪ In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord... ♪ ♪

All: Lord have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Presider: For the reign of God and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord... (*to All*)

Presider: For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live you Word let us pray to the Lord... *(to All)*

Presider: Help, save, and defend us, O God.

All: **Amen.**

Refrain

Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!

- 1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. *Refrain*
- 2 Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever. *Refrain*
- 3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God;
to make all things new. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950

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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.

All **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.**

[You may be Seated](#)

A Reading from Acts, the 3rd chapter

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.

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,¹⁵ and 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."

Acts 3:12-19

L Word of God, word of hope.

All Thanks be to God!

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 4

Please join in a responsive reading of the Psalm.

Leader will read the light print while you respond with the bold.

¹Answer 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.

²**"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"**

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

⁵ Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶ **Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”**

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

⁷ You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸ **In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make my rest secure.**

Psalm 4

A Reading from 1st John, the 3rd chapter

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.

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

1 John 3:1-7

L Word of God, word of life.

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.

♪ ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia! ♪ ♪

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

^{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.”

Luke 24:36b-48

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

[You may be Seated](#)

Sermon

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Shine on Us

Lord let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us.
Lord let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us.
That we may be saved, that we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night; let Your grace fall on us.

Lord let Your love, love with no end come over us.
Lord let Your love, love with no end come over us.
That we may be saved, that we may have life
To find our way in the darkest night; let Your love come over us.
Let Your light shine on us

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Nicene Creed

P Let us join together with one voice confessing our faith with the words of the 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.**

**Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.*

[You may be Seated](#)

Prayers of Intercession

L 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.

♪ ♪ O Lord, hear our prayer we offer up to you;
O Lord, hear our prayer. ♪ ♪

(each prayer petition ends with)

L: Lord, in your mercy, **All:** You hear our prayer.

Sharing the Peace

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by “speaking” that peace through sign language.

P Christ become peace with you.

All And also with you.

Offering

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.

♪ ♪ As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
Were gathered into one to become our bread;
So may all your people from all the ends of earth
Be gathered into one in you. ♪ ♪

Offertory Prayer

P God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.

All 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 and Words of Institution

P The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation.

Remember Me

Verse 1

**On the night You were betrayed You took the bread.
After giving thanks You broke it and said,
“This is My body broken for you, and as you eat it remember Me.
This is My body broken for you, and as you eat it remember Me.”**

Verse 2

**On the night You were betrayed You held the cup.
After giving thanks You lifted it up
“This is My blood poured out for you, and as you drink it remember Me.
“This is My blood poured out for you, and as you drink it remember Me.**

Verse 3 (*All*)

**So we thank You for the wine and for the bread;
For we see the life You gave and the blood You shed.
And we remember Your wondrous love
 You gave Your body You shed Your blood.
And we remember Your wondrous love
 You gave Your body You shed Your blood.**

The Lord's Prayer

P Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:

All 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.

The Invitation

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

All Amen.

Sharing the Meal

♪ ♪ Lamb of God, You broke the bonds of sin and of death:
Have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace. ♪ ♪

Post Communion Blessing and Praise

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All Amen

Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

*Dedication of the Confirmation Classroom
and
Thanksgiving for the life of Betty Lance
And the Generosity of her Family*

Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

(Pastor sings each line, the congregation repeats.)

♪ ♪ May the Lord bless you and keep you. ♪ ♪
May the Lord make His face to shine on you.
And be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift His countenance on you.
May the Lord lift His countenance on you.
May He keep you ✝ in perfect peace.

CCLI Song # 6128634

Fernando Ortega

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Dismissal

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.

All Thanks be to God.

Readings for next Sunday,
April 25

First Reading:	Acts 4:5-12
Psalm:	Psalm 23
Second Reading:	1 John 3:16-24
Gospel:	John 10:11-18

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