

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Hearts Cut, Burning, and Purified

April 22 & 23, 2023

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

Today we see Jesus appear to His disciples on the road to Emmaus. They say afterward that their hearts burned within them as Jesus opened up to them the Scriptures. In the Reading from Acts, those gathered on Pentecost are cut to the heart by Peter's words. And in the Epistle, Peter speaks of purified souls and hearts. It seems our hearts are being greatly affected by Christ. They are cut, burning, and purified by the Word of Christ.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

If in Christ we have hope in this life only,
we are of all people most to be pitied.
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For as by a man came death,
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
1 Corinthians 15:19-21

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #479 "Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Living"

Christ is risen, Christ is living, Dry your tears, be unafraid!
Death and darkness could not hold Him, Nor the tomb in which He lay.
Do not look among the dead for One who lives forevermore;
Tell the world that Christ is risen, Make it known He goes before.

If the Lord had never risen, We'd have nothing to believe.
But His promise can be trusted: "You will live, because I live."
As we share the death of Adam, So in Christ we live again;
Death has lost its sting and terror, Christ the Lord has come to reign.

Death has lost its old dominion, Let the world rejoice and shout!
Christ, the firstborn of the living, Gives us life and leads us out.
Let us thank our God, who causes Hope to spring up from the ground;
Christ is risen, Christ is giving Life eternal, life profound.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: God raised Jesus from the dead

People: and gave Him honor and glory.

Pastor: We place our faith in Him,

People: and we place our hope in His resurrection.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: 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.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: 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.

✠ WORD ✠

Pastor: “The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” That Word of God tells us clearly that almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are purified because of the precious blood of Jesus.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Page 204

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav’nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father’s Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow’r are seated At God’s right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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 joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

FIRST READING *Acts 2:14a, 36–41* (The Word cuts people to the heart.)

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷ Now 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?”

³⁸ And 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. ³⁹ For 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.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Peter 1:17–25* (The Word of the Lord endures forever.)

¹⁷ And 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, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who 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. ²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:13–35* (Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then 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?" ¹⁹ And 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, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But 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. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and 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. ²⁴ Some 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." ²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but 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. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They 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?" ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"Do You Know Who Died for Me?"

Do you know who died for me? Jesus did, Jesus did
Lovingly He died for me, Yes, He really did.

Do you know who rose for me? Jesus did, Jesus did,
Lovingly He rose for me, Yes, He really did!

Do you know who lives for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,
Lovingly He lives for me, Yes, He really does!

Do you know who cares for me? Jesus does, Jesus does,
Lovingly He cares for me, Yes, He really does.

SERMON HYMN #474 "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!

Refrain: 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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and archangels, Sing with creation to God the I AM!

Refrain

SERMON

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Father of the risen Christ, in your Son's appearance to the Emmaus disciples, He expounded the Scriptures and revealed Himself in the breaking of the bread. Grant us grace that we, too, may perceive Him as our Savior through His Word and rejoice to receive Him as the bread of life for the salvation of our souls. By the Word and Sacraments, renew our piety this Eastertide, that we may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of all, your Spirit opens the Holy Scriptures to the hearts of your people. Enlighten this congregation and its school by the resurrection light that never fades, that our hearts may burn in faith toward you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, you have poured out your Spirit upon us, that we might believe your truth and raise our sons and daughters in it. Bless all parents, that they may faithfully catechize their children in your Word. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, stifle the powers of darkness and end the reign of war, violence and terror. Give leaders who will seek peace and work for the common good. Instill in them a love of righteousness, and guide them in the pursuit of justice for all. Bless Joseph, our president; the Congress of the United States; Tony, our governor; all state and local officials; all medical and emergency workers; and all members of the armed forces who protect us. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of joy, be with Sandy & Mike Geboy celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary and Norman & Shirley Block celebrating Norman's 90th birthday. We thank you for blessing them all these many years, and we pray for your continued blessings upon them. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of compassion, those who suffer cry to you. Hear them and answer them with grace sufficient for all their needs. Heal the sick according to your will, comfort the wounded and give your peace to the dying. We especially pray for Sherry, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Marga, Cheryl, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Paulette, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Vern, Helga, Carol, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah. You are our health and strength for this life and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, your compassion is made known to us through your Son's breaking of the bread. Open our hearts and mouths to receive forgiveness in the body and blood of Christ, who suffered for us and has entered into His glory. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us when we are foolish and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken about your Son. Pour out your Spirit on us through the preaching of the Gospel, that the Scriptures might be opened to us; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Page 210

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #483 "With High Delight Let Us Unite"

With high delight Let us unite In songs of great jubilation.
Ye pure in heart, All bear your part, Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free Forever, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's ends
Good News to save ev'ry nation.

True God, He first From death has burst Forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy Doth vanquished lie; His death has been death's undoing.
"And yours shall be Like victory O'er death and grace,"
Saith He, who gave His life for us, life renewing.

Let praises ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed By word and deed To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.
So shall His love Give us above, From misery And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

HYMN #631 "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.

I have no help but Thine; nor do I need
Another arm but Thine to lean upon.
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
The blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord, my God.

Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

HYMN #643 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended. O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring, Embracing His children of each tribe
and race. With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living

With praise and thanksgiving Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #466 "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia.
For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain **Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!**

For three long days the grave did its worst
Until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death under go; And in its conquest His might did show.

Refrain

The angel said to them, "Do not fear! You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare; Only the grave cloths are lying there."

Refrain

"Go spread the news: He's not in the grave; He has arisen this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done; Even the battle with sin is won."

Refrain

Christ has arisen; He sets us free; Alleluia, to Him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing; He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. **Refrain**

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
Russell Hurst, Debbie Nier
JoLynn Bender

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.

May 4, 2023

Join us on the National Day of Prayer
for a Prayer Vigil.

Church will be open from 3:00 – 6:00pm

Anniversary and Farewell Celebration

May 7th at Noon

Sign up at the Welcome Center or by the elevator.

Join us as we celebrate special anniversaries of our church
family and staff members, retirements and farewells.

YOU'RE INVITED to celebrate

**St. Paul's New Playground on
Friday, May 12th starting at 3:30pm**

Pastor Josh will give a short devotion at 3:45pm which will
be followed by dinner from a local food truck, music and
activities. Let's celebrate this exciting new addition to St.
Paul's together!