

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 9:30 AM**

**WELCOME**



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 at the Lord's table. 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.

- ✝ Preacher – Rev. Wes Smith
- ✝ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

**WORSHIP**

**OPENING HYMN 1: Forever**

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good, He is above all things  
His love endures forever --sing praise--sing praise  
  
With a mighty hand and outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn  
His love endures forever  
sing praise--sing praise--sing praise--sing praise

**Chorus**

From the rising to the setting Sun  
His love endures forever  
And by the grace of God, we will carry on  
His love endures forever  
Sing, praise --sing praise--sing praise--sing praise

**Chorus**

**OPENING HYMN 2: There is a Redeemer**

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.  
**Chorus**
2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.  
**Chorus**
3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face,  
And there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.  
**Chorus**

**CHORUS**

Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,  
Forever God is with us ----forever----forever

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**Chorus**

Thank you oh my Father,  
for giving us your Son,  
And leaving your Spirit 'til,  
The work on earth is done.

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## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God, **you asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them , but then withdrew them for the work was too hard. You asked for my eyes to see the needs around me, but I closed them for I did not want to see. You asked for my life that you might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get to involved. Lord, forgive my efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so. Renew me and lead me, so that I may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. Live now as the forgiven child of God and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into all righteousness. **Amen.**

## OPENING PRAYER

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.**

## GOD'S HOLY WORD

### FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

<sup>12</sup>[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?"<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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



## Psalm 4

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

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

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

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?” Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

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

<sup>8</sup>**In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.  
Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke 24: 36b – 48. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>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.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>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.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>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, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.”

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ**

**SERMON – Rev. Wes Smith**

**“Now What?”**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW# 365 – Jesus Christ is Risen Today**

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| 1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!<br>our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!<br>who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!<br>suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!                  | 3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!<br>our salvation have procured; Alleluia!<br>now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!<br>where the angels ever sing. Alleluia! |
| 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!<br>unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!<br>who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!<br>sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia! | 4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!<br>praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!<br>praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!<br>Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! |

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

✠ *At this time, we would like to also recognize those joining us via FaceBook Live, and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests they may have submitted.*

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.*

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, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of change, facing the loss of old ways and routines. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty. Hear us as we pray. (*Please name silently or aloud, those from our families and community in greatest need of our prayers and God's blessings*). Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember how you want us to live our lives. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died. As we remember them, comfort those who mourn. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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 & OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

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. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Invitation to Communion** – The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

## OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

### COMMUNION HYMN 1: ELW# 485 – I Am the Bread of Life

1 "I am the Bread of life.  
You who come to me shall not hunger,  
and who believe in me shall not thirst.  
No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

#### **Refrain:**

"And I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up on the last day.

2 "The bread that I will give  
is my flesh for the life of the world,  
and if you eat of this bread,  
you shall live forever, you shall live forever."

#### **Refrain**

3 "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink of his blood,  
and drink of his blood,  
you shall not have life within you."

#### **Refrain**

4 "I am the resurrection,  
I am the life.  
If you believe in me,  
even though you die, you shall live  
forever."

#### **Refrain**

5 Yes, Lord, I believe  
that you are the Christ,  
the Son of God,  
who have come into the world.

#### **Refrain**

**Closing Prayer** - Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

**Blessing** – Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: ELW#377 – Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!**

1 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!

2 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**

3 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**

4 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**

5 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**

**Dismissal:** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Notes:**

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Barnegat Light NJ