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Worship

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

THE GATHERING

Greeting and Announcements
Preparation for Worship

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Come and see the love God has given to us.

Come and see what it means to be children of God.

Come with this hope, that Christ's presence is real.

With joy, we come to see the Lord.

GATHERING HYMN – *God Is Here ELW 526 (vs 1,2,4)*

- 1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**
- 2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Look, here is water!
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Silence is kept for reflection

KYRIE

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

P For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

P For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, and defend, O God.

C Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE – “Gloria” Heritage Mass

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill.

We praise you, we bless you we adore you, we glorify you,

We give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heav’nly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father

You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the most High, Jesus Christ,

With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray:

C 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.

You may be seated

THE WORD

First Reading – Acts 3:12-19

(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.)

[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."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm – Psalm 4

(The LORD does wonders for the faithful.)

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.**

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.)

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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the scriptures. Alleluia.

P The holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

Gospel Reading – 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.)

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."

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

HYMN OF THE DAY – Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia ELW 364 (vs 1,4,5)

1 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!

4 "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

**5 Christ has arisen to set us free.
Alleluia, to him praises be.
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;
he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. *Refrain***

Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
English text © 1977 Howard S. Olson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

P We affirm our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

You may be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty especially our loved ones; Martha, Brian, Jerry, Julie, David, Jack, Tom, James, Don, Guy, Gigi and the family of Albert Redlinger. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

What else do the people of God wish to lift up to God today..... 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 especially Albert Redlinger. As we remember and share their love, 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.

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.
Let's share God's peace with one another.

THE MEAL

Lord, we give you today what is already yours. You provide so much for us. Thank you for giving us the ability to give and cheerful hearts to do it.
We continue with the offering.

OFFERING HYMN – *Let All Things Now Living ELW 881*

**1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,**

who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.
Text © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

OFFERTORY – “Make Me a Servant”

Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be;
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

P 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.

P 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.

P Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

P By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C 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.

COMMUNION INVITATION

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

You may be seated

COMMUNION HYMN - Mosaic Choir

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C 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.

THE SENDING

BENEDICTION

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – I Love to Tell the Story ELW 661

**1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;**

it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

Refrain

*I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.*

**2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. *Refrain***

**3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. *Refrain***

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

**Bethany's Mission Statement –
Accepting
Serving
Loving . . .
We Share God's Embrace**

Pastor	The Rev. Sandy Jones
Accompanist:	Kristan Youn
Lector	Diane Brunsfeld
Communion	Diane Brunsfeld/Moe Aaby
Ushers	Karla & Jeff Dasen
Production	Karen Maglich