

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

HYMN 369 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" (stanzas 1-3)

Please stand

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God Who calls us to repentance.

God of life,

C: by the resurrection of Your Son You make everything new.

Newness often scares us, and we confess to shutting our minds in fear. We have not listened to voices that challenge us. We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new

directions. Our hearts are slow to believe Your promises. Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear the

new life You have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power.

Through the waters of baptism You have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that your sins are forgiven in

Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you both now and forever.

C: Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

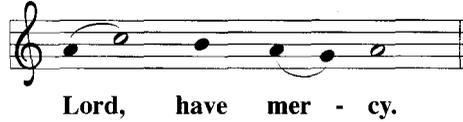
Cantor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:



Cantor: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:



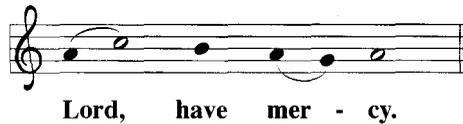
Cantor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:



Cantor: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise. Let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:



Cantor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Congregation:



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

S 149



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu ia, Al
le - lu ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the twenty-fourth chapter of Luke.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them 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: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN 368 "With High Delight Let Us Unite" (stanzas 1 and 3)

SERMON

Pastor Seth Jersild

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

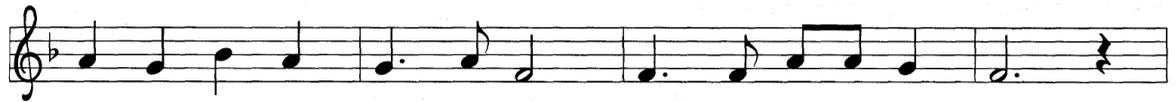
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



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



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION

Please follow the instructions from the pastor for distribution.

Believing in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine of the Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sin, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to the Lord's Table.

ORGAN Chaconne on the tune 'Mit freuden zart'

James Biery

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 389 "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing" (stanzas 1, 2, and 5)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Risen Lord.

C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

FINISHING COMMUNION AT HOME AFTER CHURCH St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City OH

For your safety and comfort in the next several weeks, we will be distributing pre-packaged communion kits to members during worship for everyone to take home, rather than eating and drinking in the church building.

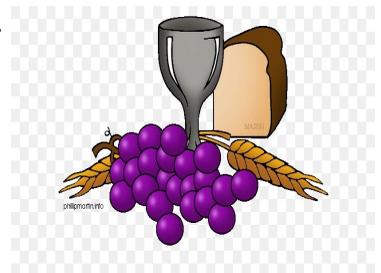
The bread and wine will be consecrated with the Words of Jesus during corporate worship, and will be ready to consume afterwards. However, since it is important to have the words of Jesus fresh in our ears before taking the sacrament, we strongly encourage you to use the following order of service once you get home.

First, unpeel the wafer(s) from the top of the package. Then unseal the juice and place the wafer and juice before you on a table, so that the elements are ready to be consumed.

Then, say the following aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *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."*

Now, partake of the wine and bread, trusting that the resurrected Lord Jesus is truly present in the sacrament **for you**, giving you the fullness of his forgiveness, life, and salvation.

After eating and drinking, we suggest saying the following prayer aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy, you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love for one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

The Third Sunday of Easter April 18, 2021

“You are witnesses of these things.”
-Luke 24:48 -

Have you ever thought about being an Easter witness? That’s a strange question to ask. There were no actual eye witnesses to the raising of the crucified Jesus from the dead just like there were witnesses in the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Unlike Lazarus, nobody actually saw Jesus stroll out of the open tomb. Yet, Jesus tells his disciples then, and his disciples today, that we are witnesses. We can sit alone and quiet for hours. We can take long walks alone in the forest or along the beach. We can delve into our own ego, but never, ever would we conceive and then come to the conclusion that God Almighty came to earth, was tortured, hung on a cross, and then rise from the dead and return to the very people who betrayed him.

The death and resurrection of Jesus is not a human idea. The death and resurrection of Jesus is a cataclysmic world event, something that happened outside of us and for us rather than within us. That’s why we have to speak up and speak out. We have to tell the world that something has happened in the world, an event we did not devise: God has raised Jesus from the dead. That glorious event of the resurrection doesn’t need anything from us to prove it. All that is needed now is to be a witness.

If we don’t step up and become witnesses to the resurrection, how will people know the truth? How will they get the knowledge that death is not the last word, that evil is not the last word, and that there is hope in a hopeless situation, unless there is a witness to tell them?

The Easter message is not “natural.” What is natural though is death, defeat, and hopelessness that comes when you think your future is over. Therefore, somebody has got to do something. Someone has got to love people enough to give them the good news that Jesus is alive, he is risen from the grave, never to die again!

Will you be a witness to what you have seen and heard on Easter? Will you testify to and point to the great victory that Jesus has won for us? There are people out there who are literally dying to get the good news. Will you be a witness?

Amen.