

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, April 18, 2021: Third Sunday of Easter

Today, as we continue to celebrate Easter, we share the Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving." In the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, Christ gives himself to us in the bread and wine. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares food with his disciples and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

Gathering

Welcoming & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

*In the name of the Father, and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit, **Amen.***

*God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.***

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

*In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you that your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

Hymn: "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds!" #367

1. Now all the vault of heaven 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!
2. Eternal is the gift he brings,
therefore our heart with rapture sings;
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife.
"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!
4. Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heavenly blessed sing;
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Greeting:

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

Prayer of the Day

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.

Word

Reading: Acts 3:12-19

¹² 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? ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ But 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

Psalm 4

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 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.**

Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

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.

Gospel Acclamation #172 Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallejulah.

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Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48 (response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord**)

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look 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.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then 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.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)

Message: *Faith and Doubt*

Hymn: “Lord, You Give the Great Commission” #579

1. Lord, you give the great commission:
“Heal the sick and preach the word.”
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity:
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.
2. Lord, you call us to your service:
“In my name baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor,
draw us closer in community:
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.
3. Lord, you make the common holy:
“This my body, this my blood.”
Let us all, for earth’s true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children’s liberty:
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.
4. Lord, you show us love’s true measure:
“Father, what they do, forgive.”
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society:
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.
5. Lord, you bless with words assuring:
“I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity.
With the Spirit’s gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.

Text: Jean Tisserand, Music: 15th Century French tune. Public Domain

Apostles' Creed

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 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

Sharing the Peace *Please share a sign of peace with one another*

Offering/Offertory #185 *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

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Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Communion & Post Communion Prayer

Sending

Hymn: *"Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"* #389

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and home with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.
3. In every insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.
4. Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy,
with justice, love and praise.

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Benediction

Go in peace, serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!

Remember in your prayers

Family and friends of Irene Erickson, Mick Rose, those affected by COVID-19, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, terrorism and violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support. Pastor Alex LaChappelle serving as a pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran in Kenya, Africa. Note: you may honor a loved one and support Pastor LaChappelle in Kenya. Contact the church office for information.