



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Third Sunday of Easter

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 each Sunday. 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.

April 18, 2021
9:30 am

Third Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

Hyfrydol

arr. Timothy Shaw

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.

My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.

Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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

Let us pray.

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.

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.

¹²[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?"¹³The 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.¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you,¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.¹⁶And 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.¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 4

¹Answer 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.

²"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"

³Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;
the Lord will hear me when I call.

⁴Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,
and put your trust in the Lord.

⁶Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”
 Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.
⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
 more than when grain and wine abound.
⁸In 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.

¹See 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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
 go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
 life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give, May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

THE 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 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 INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness, especially all those affected by COVID-19. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Please verbally add your personal prayer requests.

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night of his betrayal
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.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

The Table

Chris Tomlin

I will feast at the table of the Lord.
I will feast at the table of the Lord.
I won't hunger anymore at His table.
*Come all you weary, come and find
His yoke is easy, His burden light.
He is able; He will restore at the table of the Lord.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

ELW 881



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the
still guides us on to the end of our days,
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.
God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil-lar of fire shin-ing forth in the night,
joic-ing; with glad ad-o-ra-tion a song let us raise

till shad-ows have van-ished and dark-ness is ban-ished, as
till all things now liv-ing u-nite in thanks-giv-ing: "To

for-ward we trav-el from light in-to light,
God in the high-est, ho-san-na and praise!"

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Majesty

Smith/Garrard

arr. Emmert

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WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Lector: Missy Endy

Audio: Myles Omlor

Prayers: Nancy Graver

Video: Nyla Omlor

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

SUNDAY, APRIL 18 – Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM	Worship Celebration	Parking Lot
8:00 AM	God's Word Blesses Us	Online
9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Livestream
11:00 AM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

MONDAY, APRIL 19

9:00 AM	One Boyertown	Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	Daisy/Brownie Troop	Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

7:00 PM	Cub Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM	Small Group Bible Study	Online
7:00 PM	Finance Team	Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

7:00 PM	Welcoming All	Online
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THURSDAY, APRIL 22

10:00 AM	Chestnut Knoll Service	Chestnut Knoll
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts	Fellowship Hall
8:00 PM	Worship Broadcast	Comcast Ch. 28

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

9:00 AM	MAG Meeting	Fellowship Hall
4:30 PM	Come to the Table	Parking Lot

SUNDAY, APRIL 25 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM	Worship Celebration	Parking Lot
8:00 AM	God's Word Blesses Us	Online
9:30 AM	Worship Celebration	Livestream

PURPOSE STATEMENT

We believe God's purpose for the people of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to develop joy-filled children of God who love the Lord and share God's Word.

We do this by:

- Maintaining a trusting and welcoming environment.
- Praying daily.
- Reading scripture regularly.
- Sharing our faith through action-based service.
- Encouraging holy conversations.
- Feeding our faith with music.

With a focus on:

- Activities that build relationships.
- Worship that is relevant.
- Meeting the needs of the vulnerable in our community.

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Office Hours | Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm | Friday 8:30am - 12:00pm