



## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Bethel Lutheran Church

April 26, 2020

*In this story from Luke's gospel, the risen Christ joins two disciples overcome by the apparent loss of one who was "a prophet mighty in deed and word" (Luke 24:19). Here Luke presents us with two things: our yearning to see the risen Christ, and the Lord's response to that yearning. In word (interpreting the scriptures) and sacrament (breaking the bread) He reveals Himself to them and to us. In these two central actions—readings with preaching and thanksgiving with communion—our eyes are opened to see the risen Lord in our midst.*

✠GATHERING✠

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. Rejoicing in the resurrection, let us seek God's forgiveness, that dying to sin, we may walk in newness of life.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P. Loving God,

C. we fear, we doubt, we do not trust You; we do not love our neighbors as ourselves; we have failed to recognize You in the poor and needy; we sin against you in thought, word, and deed. We pray for Your mercy, forgiveness, and grace. We hope in the gift of Your Spirit and we rejoice in the resurrection promise of Jesus Christ, our living Savior. Amen.

P. God, Who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. May you be strengthened daily with the power to walk in God's light and love. C. Amen.

### GREETING

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P. The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**      *This is the Feast of Victory for Our God*

P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia

C. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who was slain,  
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God  
and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing and honor and glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,  
for the Lamb Who was slain has begun His reign.  
Alleluia. Alleluia!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P. O God, Your Son makes Himself known to all His disciples in the breaking of bread.  
Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see Him in His redeeming work, Who lives  
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen

✠ WORD ✠

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36–41**

*Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd],  
<sup>36</sup>“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made Him  
both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus Whom you crucified.” <sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this,  
they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what  
should we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the  
name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the  
Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away,  
everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Him.” <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other  
arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup>So  
those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand  
persons were added.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19**

I love the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplication,  
because He has inclined His ear to me whenever I called upon Him.

<sup>2</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

<sup>3</sup>Then I called upon the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray You, save my life.”

<sup>10</sup>How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things He has done for me?

<sup>11</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon the name of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all His people.

<sup>13</sup>Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of His servants.

<sup>14</sup>O LORD, I am Your servant;

I am Your servant and the child of  
Your handmaid;

You have freed me from my bonds.

<sup>15</sup>I will offer You the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.

<sup>16</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all His people,

<sup>17</sup>in the courts of the LORD’s house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17–23**

*The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.*

If you invoke as Father the one Who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through Him you have come to trust in God, Who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. <sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;  
From the gloomy halls of death Christ, the Conqueror, has gone,  
Bright forerunner to the skies of His people, yet to rise.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:13–35**

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

**C. (spoken) Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,<sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.<sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself came near and went with them,<sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing Him.

<sup>17</sup>And He said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.<sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem Who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”

<sup>19</sup>He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, Who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,<sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death and crucified Him.<sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,<sup>23</sup> and when they did not find His body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive.<sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Him.”

<sup>25</sup>Then He said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into His glory?”<sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if he were going on.<sup>29</sup> But they urged Him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So He went in to stay with them.<sup>30</sup> When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.

<sup>32</sup>They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the scriptures to us?”

<sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.<sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and

He has appeared to Simon!"<sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

### GOSPEL RESPONSE

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! Praise Him, ransomed of the earth.  
Praise Him in a nobler song, Cherubim of heav'nly birth.  
Praise the victor King, Whose sway sin and death and hell obey

### SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY *Day of Arising*



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,  
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,  
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.  
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,  
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign;



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,  
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing  
grant us Your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.  
our in - vi ta - tion: Stay, do not part.  
that all cre - a - tion with You may rise.

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

### ✠ PRAYER ✠

#### OFFERING

*If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website ([www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com)).*

#### OFFERTORY *He Is Arisen, Glorious Word*

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;  
the gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus rose triumphantly,  
and Satan's arrows broken lie, destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.  
Oh, hear, what cheer! Christ victorious, rising glorious,  
life is giving. He was dead, but now is living!

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Blessed are You, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

C. Day by day You shower us with blessings. As You raised us to new life in Christ,  
give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise You and to respond to those in  
need through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Separated in our residences but uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection,  
we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and  
all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Come to the church, so burdened by heartache. Give us faith to know Your loving  
presence among us. Open the scriptures to us, and nourish us with the bread of Your  
word. Empower us to tell the story of Your love in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,  
C. **hear our prayer.**

Come to the earth. Bless all the natural world. Renew landscapes, cleanse the waters, and  
protect the animals. Save Your people especially at this time from destructive storms and  
floods. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

Come to the nations. Preserve all peoples from war and violence. Guide the leaders of nations, our president, our governors, and our legislators toward wise decisions in struggling against the virus and in reviving the economy. Curb our instinct to fight over limited resources and redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

Come to all who suffer from the virus. Comfort the mourners, heal the sick, sustain medical workers. Empower those researchers who are seeking a vaccine. Stay with us, and accompany all those who are isolated or afraid. Give to those with prior ailments and chronic disease their necessary medical care. Especially we pray for those we name here before You *especially* Bea, Merv, Emily, Dick, Angie, Shirley, and Lynette. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

As at Emmaus You joined the meal of the disciples, so come also to our tables. Uphold farmers, ranchers, migrant workers, and all who produce, package and market our food. Guard the health of those who work at grocery stores. Bless the efforts of local food banks. Enable us to feed the children who have relied on food given out at school. Show us how to feed the people living in refugee camps and nations experiencing famine and drought. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

Create in our hearts a yearning to rest in Your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give us thankful hearts for those who have died in the faith, including those who stricken with the virus and the medical workers who died healing others, even as we look forward to the hope of new life with You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. With bold confidence in Your love we place all for whom we pray into Your eternal care. Give us the joys of life in Your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

P. The God of all grace, Who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support,  
strengthen, and ✠ bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus*



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;  
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,  
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.  
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,  
glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,  
God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.  
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.  
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

DISMISSAL

P. Christ is Risen!

C. He is Risen indeed!

P. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia



## Those who Serve:

**Ministers:** All the People of God  
**Presider:** Pastor Ellen Munter  
**Organist:** Terry Dybsetter  
**Reader:** Sara Wollum

April 19, 2020

General: \$2,046.85 (\$326.85 received through electronic giving)  
Includes: \$400.00 Easter Offering.

### How to reach us:

Church Office: 507-296-4658                      Pastor's House: 507-296-4558  
Pastor's Cell: 507-828-1000 (call or text)   Pastor's email: [pastormunter@gmail.com](mailto:pastormunter@gmail.com)  
Bethel email: [bethel@bethelofporter.com](mailto:bethel@bethelofporter.com) Bethel web page: [www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Offering:** During this period of suspended in-person worship services, Bethel and Hemnes continue to have recurring expenses. Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>



Bea Heise      Merv Anderson      Emily Morton,  
Dick Anderson      Angie Denelsbeck      Anderson  
Shirlee Gabbert      Lynette Christie

### Acknowledgements

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