

## Divine Service - Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

*“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...”* (Heb. 12:28)

### The Opening Hymn: 478 ss 1-4

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad, The passover of gladness, The passover of God.

From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free, Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.

2. Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light  
And, list'ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain, His own “All hail!” and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.

3. Now let the heav'ns be joyful, Let earth its song begin, Let all the world keep triumph And all that is there-in.  
Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end!

4. All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son, All praise to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!  
Let all the ransomed number Fall down before the throne  
And honor, pow'r, and glory Ascribe to God alone!

### The Invocation

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG: Amen.

### Call to Confession

PASTOR: Beloved in the LORD. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

### The Confession

PASTOR: Our help is in the name of the LORD.

CONG: Who made heaven and earth.

PASTOR: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.

CONG: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

PASTOR: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed; therefore we flee for refuge to your boundless mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our LORD Jesus Christ.

ALL: O most merciful God, since you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us and for his sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### The Absolution

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG: Amen.

## **The Introit of the Day** 1 PETER 2:2-3; PS 105:1-5, 8

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—

if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

Seek the Lord and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

He remembers his covenant forever,

the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

## **Gloria Patri**

**CONG:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## **The Kyrie**

**CONG:** Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

## **The Gloria in Excelsis**

**CONG:** Glory be to God on high; and on earth peace, good will toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,  
We glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## **The Collect**

**PASTOR:** Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**CONG:** Amen.

## **The First Reading:** ACTS 4:32-35

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold

35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**The Gradual** ADAPT. FROM MATT 28:7; HEB 2:7; PS 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,  
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;  
he has put all things under his feet.

**The Epistle:** 1 JOHN 1:1-2:2

1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard,  
which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and  
have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—  
2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify  
to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the  
Father and was made manifest to us—  
3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you,  
so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our  
fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.  
4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be  
complete.  
5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to  
you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.  
6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in  
darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.  
7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have  
fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son  
cleanses us from all sin.  
8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth  
is not in us.  
9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our  
sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his  
word is not in us.  
2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that  
you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate  
with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.  
2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but  
also for the sins of the whole world.

**The Verse** ROM 6:9; JOHN 20:29b

Alleluia. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will  
never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.  
Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have  
believed. Alleluia.

**The Holy Gospel:** ST. JOHN 20:19-31

19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the  
doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the  
Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them,  
“Peace be with you.”  
20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his  
side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.  
21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father  
has sent me, even so I am sending you.”  
22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said  
to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.  
23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you  
withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”  
24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not  
with them when Jesus came.  
25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.”  
But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the  
nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place  
my hand into his side, I will never believe.”  
26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and  
Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus  
came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”  
27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my  
hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not  
disbelieve, but believe.”  
28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”  
29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have  
seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have  
believed.”  
30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the

disciples, which are not written in this book;  
31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is  
the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have  
life in his name.

**Choir:** “Christ Jesus Lay Death’s Strong Bands” LSB 458 1-7

1. Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands,  
For our offenses given;  
But now at God’s right hand He stands,  
And brings us life from Heaven.  
Therefore let us joyful be,  
And sing to God right thankfully  
Loud songs of Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. No son of man could conquer death,  
Such ruin sin had wrought us,  
No innocence was found on earth,  
And therefore death had brought us  
Into bondage from of old  
And ever grew more strong and bold  
And held us as its captive. Alleluia!

3. Christ Jesus, God’s own Son, came down,  
His people to deliver;  
Destroying sin, He took the crown  
From death’s pale brow forever;  
Stripped of pow’r, no more it reigns;  
An empty form alone remains;  
Its sting is lost forever. Alleluia!

4. It was a strange and dreadful strife  
When life and death contended;  
The victory remained with life;  
The reign of death was ended.  
Holy Scripture plainly saith  
That death is swallowed up by death,

Its sting is lost forever! Alleluia!

5. Here our true Paschal Lamb we see,  
Whom God so freely gave us;  
He died on the accursed tree—  
So strong His love—to save us.  
See, His blood now marks our door;  
Faith points to it, death passes o’er,  
And Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia!

6. So let us keep the festival  
To which the Lord invites us;  
Christ is Himself the joy of all,  
The sun that warms and lights us.  
Now His grace to us imparts  
Eternal sunshine to our hearts;  
The night of sin is ended! Alleluia!

7. Then let us feast this Easter day  
On Christ, the bread of Heaven;  
The Word of grace has purged away  
The old and evil leaven.  
Christ alone our souls will feed;  
He is our meat and drink indeed;  
Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!

**The Nicene Creed** (We Confess Together)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven  
and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one  
Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of  
his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very  
God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance  
with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men  
and for our salvation came down from heaven and was  
incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made  
man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He

suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Sermon Hymn:** 475 ss. 1-4

1 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

2 The Lord of life is ris'n today;  
Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;  
Let all the world rejoice and say:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

3 Praise we in songs of victory  
That Love, that Life, which cannot die,  
And sing with hearts uplifted high:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, the life restored  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Sermon:** "To Understand Why" ACTS 4:32-35

**The Offertory**

**CONG:** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

**The Prayers and The LORD's Prayer**

**The Closing Hymn:** 463 ss. 1-4

1 Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia!  
Christians hasten on your way; Alleluia!  
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!  
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!  
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!  
Now He lives, no more to die, Alleluia!

3 Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!  
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!  
When contending death and life, Alleluia!  
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!  
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!  
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!  
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

## **The Benediction**

**PASTOR:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord  
make His face shine on you and be gracious  
to you. The Lord look upon you with favor  
and † give you peace.

**CONG:** Amen.

Liturgist: Pastor Brock Abbott

Preacher: Pastor Bill Abbott

Videographer: Lucas Abbott