

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH EASTER 3

APRIL 23, 2023

PRELUDE and WELCOME

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

In the waters of Baptism, we have passed over
from death to life with Jesus Christ
and we are a new creation.

**For this saving mystery, and for this water,
let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.**

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, God, for your river of life,
flowing freely from your throne:

**through the earth,
through the city,
through every living thing.**

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood,
You opened wide the seas for the Israelites.
Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,
and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gates of righteousness and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm the troubled waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places you are with us.

You have become our salvation.

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 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.

HYMN: ELW # 362 AT THE LAMB'S HIGH FEAST WE SING verses 1-4, 7

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who has washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side, Alleluia!**

**Praise we Christ whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast—
Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!**

**Where the paschal blood is poured,
death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
thro' the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!**

**Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above. Alleluia!**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
newborn souls in you to be. 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

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.

Amen.

WORD

ACTS 2:14a, 36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say..... Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

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?" 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.

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." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 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

I love the Lord, who has heard my voice
and listened to my supplication.

For the Lord has given ear to me,
whenever I called.

The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord:

“O Lord, I pray you, save my life!”

How shall I repay the Lord

for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³I will lift the cup of salvation

and call on the name of the LORD,

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord,

in the presence of all God’s people.

Precious in your sight, O Lord

is the death of your servants.

O Lord, truly I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;

You have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord

in the presence of all God’s people,

in the courts of the Lord’s house,

in your midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

1 PETER 1:17-23

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. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 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. 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. 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.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: LUKE 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 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?" 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 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?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN ELW # 464 BREAD OF LIFE OUR HOST AND MEAL

Bread of Life, our host and meal,
Jesus, feed us.

Christ, by faith, to see and feel,
feed us with your love.

Bread now break and wine now pour.

Jesus, feed us.

Make us one, our hope restore.

Feed us with your love.

Grant forgiveness in the feast.

Jesus, feed us.

For the greatest and the least,
feed us with your love.

Thank you for this gift you share.

Jesus, feed us.

Save God's children everywhere.

Feed us with your love.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS

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.

A brief silence.

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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE and OFFERING

MEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these
gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.

In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, Holy Love, Holy Wonder,
out of silence and emptiness you created the heavens and the earth.
The oceans sing your praise. The rivers chant your glory.
Out of Abraham and Sarah's dead end, you made promises,
you granted laughter, you brought forth descendants to continue your story.
Out of the deathly power of oppression and slavery you liberated your people
and blessed them with water, bread, wine.
Out of their lifeless wandering from your justice and mercy
you sent them prophets who sang poems that serenaded them back to you.
In your great compassion for every tribe and nation, you sent Jesus,
to bring everyone out of the tomb of hatred and sin and into a life of your love.
He fully embodied your compassion,
lifting up the poor, raising up the lowly, forgiving the sinner, suffering and dying
so that no one need suffer injustice and fear anymore.
Out of the death of his own tomb,
you raised him up so your story of love will not end.
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.
Together with one voice, we celebrate the paschal mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Send your Spirit to fill us with the joy of the resurrection.
Grant us hope beyond our comprehension.
Bless these gifts of bread and wine,
so that the endless life and love of Jesus may dwell in us,
and flow from us through acts of love for our neighbours.

Holy God, Holy Love, Holy Wonder,
we give you more praise than we can utter,
as we await that great day when the feast of your love
has no walls, no exceptions, no end,
when we gather with Christ, by the Spirit, and know life in you:
love that cannot die,
love that enlivens our weary bones,
love that exceeds every hope and dream,
love, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

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.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION

you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words

"the body of Christ given for you" "the blood of Christ shed for you"

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of your Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW # 674 LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again.

Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one,
at his table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE