

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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THE SERVICE – SETTING ONE

THREAD: *The risen Savior gives a message of repentance.*

Hymn: There Is a Fountain

CW 401



1 There is a foun - tain filled with blood drawn
2 The dy - ing thief re - joiced to see that
3 Dear dy - ing Lamb, your pre - cious blood shall
4 E'er since by faith I saw the stream your
5 When this poor lisp - ing, stam - m'ring tongue lies



from Im - man - uel's veins, and sin - ners plunged be -
foun - tain in his day; and there have I, as
nev - er lose its pow'r till all the ran - somed
flow - ing wounds sup - ply, re - deem - ing love has
si - lent in the grave, then in a no - bler,



neath that flood lose all their guilt - y stains:
vile as he, washed all my sins a - way:
Church of God be saved, to sin no more:
been my theme and shall be till I die:
sweet - er song I'll sing your pow'r to save:



lose all their guilt - y stains, lose all their
washed all my sins a - way, washed all my
be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to
and shall be till I die, and shall be
I'll sing your pow'r to save, I'll sing your



guilt - y stains, and sin - ners plunged be -
sins a - way, and there have I, as
sin no more, till all the ran - somed
till I die, re - deem - ing love has
pow'r to save, then in a no - bler,



neath that flood lose all their guilt - y stains.
vile as he, washed all my sins a - way.
Church of God be saved, to sin no more.
been my theme and shall be till I die.
sweet - er song I'll sing your pow'r to save.

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Easter Song of Praise: This Is the Feast

CW 938:1, 4, 5

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia!



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 3:11–20

Just before the text of our first reading, the Apostle Peter performs a miracle as an opportunity to share Jesus. The miracle draws a crowd to whom Peter speaks. He presents the law in as harsh a way as you might imagine and follows it with a call to repentance. Peter shows the reality of sin while sending relief. A clear message of forgiveness is given, as Jesus has instructed.

¹¹While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. ¹²When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷“Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Psalm 150B

Refrain



Tone



Praise God in his sanctu- / ary;
praise him in his mighty / heavens.
Praise him for his acts of / power;
praise him for his surpassing / greatness. **Refrain**

Praise him with the sounding of the / trumpet,
praise him with the / harp and lyre,
praise him with timbrel and / dancing,
praise him with the / strings and pipe,
praise him with the clash of / cymbals,
praise him with resounding / cymbals. **Refrain**

Let everything that has breath / praise the LORD.
Praise / the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

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Second Reading

1 John 1:5—2:2

Our second lesson follows along the lines of the first. There is a message to be proclaimed. This time, it is the Apostle John proclaiming the message. What is the message? If you think you are not a sinner, you're crazy and just a liar. But wait! Forgiveness is real and that includes forgiveness for everyone.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But 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, purifies us from all sin.

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

¹My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 24:46,47

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,

and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 24:36-49

In our first and second readings, we see Apostles carrying Jesus' message to others. Why are they doing that? This is the task that they were given to joyfully conduct. We see the resurrected Christ telling his witnesses to preach repentance and forgiveness.

³⁶While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day: Christ the Lord Is Risen Again

CW 459



1	Christ	the	Lord	is	ris'n	a -	gain;	Christ	has	bro -	ken
2	He	who	gave	for	us	his	life,	who	for	us	en -
3	He	who	bore	all	pain	and	loss	com -	fort -	less	up -
4	He	whose	path	no	rec -	ords	tell	has	de -	scend -	ed



death's	strong	chain.	Hark,	the	an -	gels	shout	for	joy,
dured	the	strife,	is	our	Pas -	chal	Lamb	to -	day.
on	the	cross	lives	in	glo -	ry	now	on	high,
in -	to	hell;	he	the	strong	man	armed	has	bound



sing -	ing	ev -	er -	more	on	high:	Hal -	le -	lu -	jah!
We	too	sing	for	joy	and	say:	Hal -	le -	lu -	jah!
pleads	for	us,	and	hears	our	cry:	Hal -	le -	lu -	jah!
and	in	high -	est	heav'n	is	crowned.	Hal -	le -	lu -	jah!

5 He who slumbered in the grave
is exalted now to save;
now through Christendom it rings
that the Lamb is King of kings.
Hallelujah!

6 Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiv'n,
how we, too, may enter heav'n.
Hallelujah!

Sermon

Acts 3:11-20

Convicted and Convinced

- A. Peter's message at the Temple
- B. Peter's message to us
- C. Now go and proclaim.

*Sermon by Rev. Gregg Bitter, adapted. Used by permission
Ministering Elder: Jim Dietz*

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church for Easter

Almighty and merciful God, in this glorious Easter season we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.

When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.

Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to follow his promises. In their hopelessness of despair turn the faithless to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life.

Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the lost and troubled. Use our witness as compassion and comfort for others in need of mercy.

King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and power that stands against you, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against your saving will--false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan's lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion—rule it for the sake of the gospel's free course.

Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end. Never leave us or forsake us.

Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent women with news of the risen Christ, call women in our church to announce, "He is risen!" As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the keys of the kingdom.

Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.

Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.

Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

... Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father! Amen.

Offering – *The mail at church is being collected. Offerings may be mailed to:*

Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, 200 E. Beidler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Offering Hymn: We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer

CW 609:1, 3

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer
in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.
We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us;
we bless your ho - ly name, — glad prais - es we sing.
to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Stand

Hymn: Christ High-Ascended

CW 747



1 Christ high - as - cend - ed, now in glo - ry seat - ed, throned
2 Christ, from the Fa - ther ev - 'ry pow'r pos - sess - ing, who
3 Christ, who in dy - ing won for us sal - va - tion, lives
4 Christ in his splen - dor, all do - min - ion gain - ing, Christ
5 As at his part - ing, joy shall ban - ish griev - ing, faith



and ex - alt - ed, vic - to - ry com - plet - ed, death's dread do -
on his cho - sen lift - ed hands in bless - ing, sends forth his
now the first - born of the new cre - a - tion; to win dis -
with his peo - ple ev - er - more re - main - ing, Christ to all
in his pres - ence strength - en our be - liev - ing; filled with his



min - ion fi - nal - ly de - feat - ed, we are his wit - ness - es.
ser - vants, still in faith con - fess - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.
ci - ples out of ev - 'ry na - tion, we are his wit - ness - es.
a - ges, glo - ri - ous - ly reign - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.
Spir - it, love and pow'r re - ceiv - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.

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Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

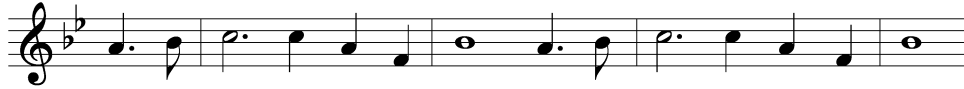
Amen.

Hymn: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

CW 839



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Silent prayer

Announcements

Acknowledgments:

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