

CHRIST'S UNITED ✠ ST. JAMES ✠ FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Ashland/Pitman/Hegins

Third Sunday of Easter ✠ April 26, 2020

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings to you in the name of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. This is the third Sunday of the fifty days of Easter.

Again, we extend great thanks our technicians—Gary Klinger, Eljon Alonge, and Steven Wolfgang—for sharing their skills in recording and posting this service.

We ask you today and throughout this time of anxiety and confusion, to pray for one another, for our respective faith communities, for our Church and civic leaders, and all those in our nation and around the world affected by the spread of the Coronavirus, especially those most at risk, and of course, those who face death and their loved ones.

- If you have any pastoral care needs, do not hesitate to call Pastor Laura or Pastor Mark at the Lutheran parsonage at **570-652-1951**. And please visit our websites for more information in the days ahead.
- *Remember, that the work of the Church continues even now. We urge you to continue your financial giving to the life of your congregation. If possible, please mail in your offering or use electronic means to continue your weekly giving. These are difficult days for all of us, including our congregations.*

Trusting in our crucified and risen savior, we look ahead in confident hope, knowing that Christ Jesus is the victorious Lord of life.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN LBW#140 "WITH HIGH DELIGHT LET US UNITE"

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

Let us pray... 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.**

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. Holy Communion is at the heart of Christian worship and the story of Emmaus is the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

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.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

³⁸Peter 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. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19

¹I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,

²**for the LORD has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me;
the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray you, | save my life."**

- ¹²How shall I re- | pay the LORD
for all the good things God has | done for me?
- ¹³**I will lift the cup | of salvation
and call on the name | of the LORD.**
- ¹⁴I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God's people.
- ¹⁵**Precious in your | sight, O LORD,
is the death | of your servants.**
- ¹⁶O LORD, truly I | am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me | from my bonds.
- ¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and call upon the name | of the LORD.**
- ¹⁸I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God's people,
- ¹⁹**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.

¹⁷If 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. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through 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.

²²Now 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. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

EASTER VERSE & ALLELUIA

Alleluia. Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the scriptures. *Alleluia.* (Luke 24:32)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 24th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE 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.

¹³Now 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, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?" ¹⁹He 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, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But 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. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some 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." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then 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.

THE SERMON

"Burning Hearts"

Pr. Laura A. Csellak

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 was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he 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

SHARING OF THE PEACE *A sign of peace is shown by bowing.*

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

And also, with you.

THE PRAYERS *Response: "Hear our prayer."*

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.

For our leaders, that they may take responsibility and look not to their power and glory, but act according to your wisdom and compassion. Guide those in authority to bring relief to all who suffer, especially the poor and powerless. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the Church and all those who are called to serve in this time of crisis: for bishops and all clergy, for deacons and deaconesses, teachers and seminarians; that all may proclaim the Gospel boldly. Even as death is all around, let the Church be the living light of hope as the body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those whose hearts are moved with love for your gospel, that they be emboldened to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show this love in hospitality to friend and enemy alike. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this diverse world: for all the creatures that God has made, wild and tame, and for all people of every color and race, every religion, every nation, tribe and clan; that all who call this earth their home may be nurtured and protected. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Bring to an end our war, our racism, our bigotry, our arrogant love for ourselves over love for our neighbor. Rather than hoarding the abundance you have made, open us to generosity and care for the least of your people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who call upon your healing name, we pray that you will give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit. Be with all who are lonely and living in fear and isolation during this turbulent time. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, in these anxious days, when our hearts are troubled, turn us to trust in your promise to be with us always. Give us renewed faith and thankful hearts, just as you blessed those who went before us and now rest in your eternal embrace. Keep us in your care until the day we join your saints in the heavenly chorus of everlasting praise. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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**

BENEDICTION

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he promised.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

HYMN LBW#128 "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY; ALLELUIA!"

LEADING WORSHIP

PRESIDING

Pr. Laura Csellak and Pr. Mark Swanson

VIDEOGRAPHER

Mr. Gary Klinger

THIS WEEK ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR, WE REMEMBER...

APRIL 29 – CATHERINE OF SIENA, THEOLOGIAN, DIED 1380

Catherine of Siena was a member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), and among Roman Catholics she was the first woman to receive the title Doctor of the Church. She was a contemplative and is known for her mystical visions of Jesus. This gift of mysticism apparently extended back into her childhood, much to the dismay of her parents, who wanted her to be like other children. Catherine was a humanitarian who worked to alleviate the suffering of the poor and imprisoned. She was also a renewer of church and society and advised both popes and any persons who told her their problems. Catherine's contemplative life was linked to her concern for the poor and suffering. She is a reminder that prayer and activism belong together.

MAY 1 – PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, who after following Jesus invited Nathanael to "come and see." According to tradition, Philip preached in Asia Minor and died as a martyr in Phrygia. James, the son of Alphaeus, is called "the Less" (meaning "short" or "younger") to distinguish him from another apostle named James who is commemorated July 25. Philip and James are commemorated together because the remains of these two saints were placed in the Church of the Apostles in Rome on this day in 561.

MAY 2 – ATHANASIUS, BISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA, DIED 373

Athanasius attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 as a deacon and secretary to the bishop of Alexandria. At the council, and when he himself served as bishop of Alexandria, he defended the full divinity of Christ against the Arian position held by emperors, magistrates, and theologians. Because of his defense of the divinity of Christ, he was considered a trouble maker and was banished from Alexandria on five occasions. As bishop, one of his paschal letters to surrounding bishops gives a list for books that should be considered canonical scripture. He lists the twenty seven New Testament books that are recognized today.
