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*"<sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.*

*- Luke 24:41-43*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Third Sunday of Easter – April 19, 2015**

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

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Rev. Robert Newpher, Interim Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Third Sunday of Easter – April 19, 2015**

*The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Lord's day. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures: the two main elements of our Sunday worship.*

***Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church***  
*These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.*

**PRELUDE:** *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen* – Robert Hobby

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

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

**\*GATHERING SONG #368: *With High Delight Let Us Unite***

**\*GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.**

**\*THIS IS THE FEAST**



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



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life,  
and you adopt us to be your children.**

**Fill us with your words of life,  
that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 3:12–19 (page 120 in New Testament)

*After healing a crippled man, Peter preaches to the people how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.*

<sup>12</sup>When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 4

1. O God, de - fend - er of my cause, Have mer - cy, hear my plea.  
2. "How long will you dis - hon - or me, You crea-tures of the dust,  
3. The faith-ful know God does great deeds; I call and God will hear.  
4. Now pay the sac - ri - fice re - quired And trust in God's great might;  
5. You put more glad-ness in my heart Than when our crops in - crease;

You set me free when most hard pressed; I call, O an - swer me.  
And wor-ship gods that can - not speak And in false i - dols trust?"  
Speak to your heart in se - cret, then, Sin not, but stand in fear.  
While ma - ny seek for bet - ter times, Lord, let us see your light.  
You, Lord, a - lone make me se - cure; I fall a - sleep in peace.

Text: Psalm 4, para. by Christopher L. Webber  
Music: *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

DUNDEE  
CM

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7** (page 240 in New Testament)

*God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.*

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

<sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

<sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**\*GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:36b–48** (page 91 in New Testament)

*In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>36b</sup>"Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: *Day of Arising***

1. Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way, un - known com -  
2. When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing, blind - ed by  
3. Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken. This is Christ's  
4. Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney, bread of com -

- pan - ion walks with his own. When they in - vite him, as fades the  
sad - ness, slow - ness of heart, yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a -  
pro - mise, this is Christ's sign: when the church gath - ers, when bread is  
- pas - sion, o - pen our eyes. Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts

first day, and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.  
- wait - ing our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.  
bro - ken, there Christ is with us in bread and wine.  
burn - ing that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien  
Music: Gaelic tune; arr. *ELW*  
Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress  
Music arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

BUNESSAN  
554D

**\*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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and 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,  
who 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 OF INTERCESSION**

Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the church and its leaders, for those who witness to the risen Christ through speech or action, and for all children of God, that all be led to joy in the resurrection, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For stewards of creation, for farmers planting and ranchers tending to livestock, that the bounty of the earth provide for all who hunger or thirst, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who work to keep us safe: police officers and firefighters, military and international peacekeepers, local and national leaders; that God's peace and compassion come to us, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the distressed, rejected, bereaved, sick, and frightened, especially Nan, Jim, John, Robert, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen that support for them be close at hand, and that all experience the gift of healing, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For this assembly, where the scriptures have been opened in our midst, that with boldness of heart we proclaim the joy we have in our new life in Christ, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For our bishop and call committee, that they discern your will for the pastoral leadership of this congregation, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the witnesses of the faith who have died and are now at rest, especially Olavus and Laurentius Petri, Swedish reformers, that with them we have hope in the promises of the Author of life, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Holy God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have granted new life, abundant renewal, and salvation. Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY HYMN #522: As We Gather at Your Table**

*(Please stand for the final stanza.)*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings.

As you have 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 Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

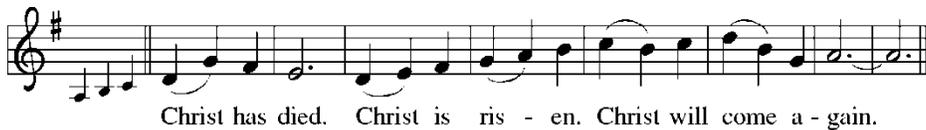
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

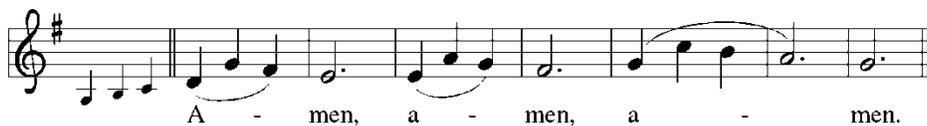
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



**\*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

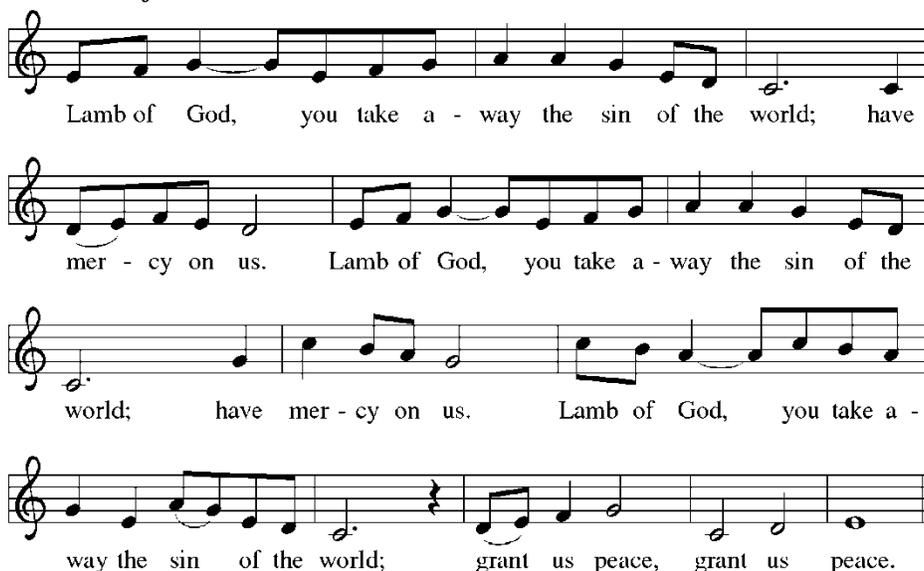
**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**  
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God***



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



**COMMUNION HYMN: *Be Not Afraid***

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn 'Be Not Afraid'. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system includes the lyrics 'Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!'. The second system repeats the same lyrics. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

**Amen.**

**\*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise***

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

The image shows four lines of musical notation for the canticle 'Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise'. Each line consists of a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the staff. The first line includes the lyrics 'Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let'. The second line includes the lyrics 'ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.'. The third line includes the lyrics 'Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with'. The fourth line includes the lyrics 'shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.'. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature.

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God,

in the mystery of Christ's resurrection

you send light to conquer darkness,

water to give new life,

and the bread of life to nourish your people.

Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection,

that we may show your glory to all the world,

through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

**Amen.**

May God, who through the waters of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever.

**Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

**Amen.**

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #377: *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!***

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE: *The Strife Is O'er* – Wilbur Held**

**The flowers this week are given by Marlene and Clarence Strabel in celebration of their 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and for the glory of God.**

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Clarence Strabel

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:** Chuck Olescyski

**Attendance Last Week:** 61

**Weekly Budgeted Need:** \$ 2,755.44

**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$ 44,087.08

**YTD Actual Expense:** \$ 44,855.54

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:**

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:**

**Attendance last year:** 81

**Last Week's Giving:** \$ 1,241.50

**Year to Date Receipts:** \$ 41,609.34

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