

"Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, 'Peace be with you."

- Luke: 20:36b

# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Third Sunday of Easter – April 14, 2024

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning! Know that you are welcome here just as you are.

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an \* and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:



You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.

As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then prefilled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.

A playroom is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

## PRELUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## \*GATHERING SONG Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! (ELW 377)



#### \*GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

#### \*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us! We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning, you created us in your image and placed 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 river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

In your baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, We give you thanks, O God for in these waters, you promise welcome, forgiveness, and life everlasting, and you claim us as your beloved children.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Alleluia!

# \*Kyrie



## \*THIS IS THE FEAST



#### \*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 3:12-21

A reading from Acts.

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] 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, <sup>20</sup> so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, <sup>21</sup> who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM 4



<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender | of my cause;

you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and | hear my prayer.

2"You mortals, how long will you dishon- or my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders | for the faithful; the LORD will hear me | when I call.

<sup>4</sup>Tremble, then, and | do not sin;

speak to your heart in silence up- on your bed. R

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed | sacrifices, and put your trust | in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?"

Let the light of your face shine upon | us, O LORD.

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness | in my heart, more than when grain and | wine abound.

<sup>8</sup>In peace, I will lie | down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me | rest secure. R

#### SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

A reading from 1 John.

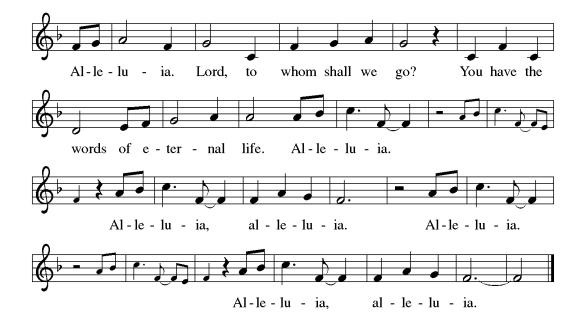
<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: 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 24:34-48

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>34</sup> [Cleopas and the other disciple] were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

<sup>36</sup> While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "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 The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done (ELW 366)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



#### \*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed

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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. A brief silence.

O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace,

## hear our prayer.

O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace,

## hear our prayer.

O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct leaders to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace, hear our prayer.

O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember in our hearts. God of grace,

## hear our prayer.

O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace,

# hear our prayer.

O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace,

# hear our prayer.

Living God, we carry in our hearts joys and concerns known only to you. We bring to you all that weighs us down and celebrate in you all that lifts us up. We offer the prayer we bring into this space on this day (*blue prayer cards are read*) and all the prayers we do not yet have the words to speak. Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

#### Amen.

#### \*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

# And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

#### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

#### **OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY HYMN With High Delight Let Us Unite (ELW 368)

Rise on verse 3



#### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, strengthened by the gifts of your meal of grace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### Amen.

#### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

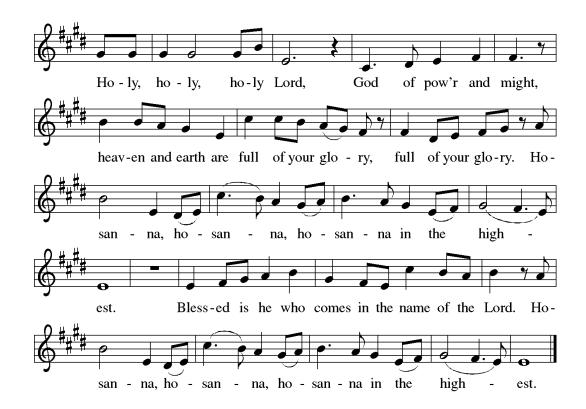
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



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

#### Alleluia!

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.

#### Alleluia!

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.

#### Alleluia!

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 mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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. **Alleluia! Amen.** 

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

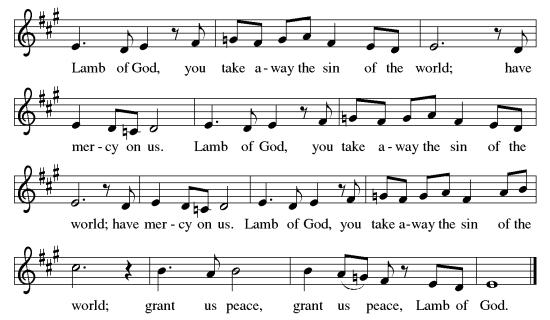
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

## **COMMUNION SONG** *Lamb of God*



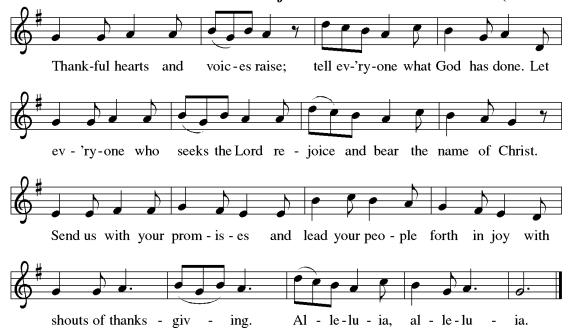
# COMMUNION HYMN Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia (ELW 364)



#### \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

# \*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (ELW 207)



#### \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Shepherding God,

you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

#### \*BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

#### Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### Amen.

May the God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope 

→ bless you now and always.

#### Alleluia! Amen.

# \*SENDING SONG Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain (ELW 363)



- 1 Come, you faith ful, raise the strain of tri um phant glad ness!
- 2 'Tis the spring of souls to day: Christ has burst his pris on,
- 3 Now the queen of sea-sons, bright with the day of splen-dor,
- 4 Nei ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por tal, 5 Al le lu ia! now we cry to our Lord im mor tal,
- 0



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness, and from three days' sleep in death as sun has ris - en. a roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der; nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you a mor - tal: as who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke and daugh-ters; Ja - cob's sons win - ter of our sins, glad Jer - u - sa - lem, long and dark, fly - ing the is comes to who with true af - fec - tion ap - pear, to - day, a - mong your own, be - stow - ing you Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son the God Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with Red Sea wa - ters. un-moist-ened foot through the from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing. wel-comes in un - wea - ried strain Je sus' res - ur - rec - tion! your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass es hu - man know - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

## \*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

# The Altar Flowers today are in memory of Freida Carbo and Catherine Franze and offered by Ruth Ann Tully.

**Assisting in worship today:** 

**Assisting Minister: David D.** 

Acolyte: Nathan K Ushers: Bob D.

**Greeters: Sherry D.** 

Offering: Ava N & Ella N

Attendance last week: 56 + 4 zoom

## Notes for the day's texts:

Faith cannot be stockpiled. It needs a pattern of replenishment. Today, the disciples are hungry. While their stomachs may not be rumbling, their hunger is shown in their lack of certainty about who Jesus is. Even though they were just talking about how Jesus walked with two of them on the road to Emmaus, his real presence now frightens them. Doubt, disbelief, and fear are like hunger to the disciples. Jesus does not become agitated at the fact that the disciples are afraid of him. Jesus expects the fears and the doubts about his presence in the room. He knows that one post-resurrection appearance to them will never be enough. There will need to be more appearances to sustain the faith of generations of disciples!

The appearances become a pattern, with Jesus entering into the lives of his disciples, eating with them and teaching them. Finally, Jesus sends the disciples out as witnesses. Today the witnesses come back into the pattern of Jesus' appearance to remember what was witnessed—so that their own testimony of a Savior who sets their fears at ease will also ease the doubts and fears of other hearers.

# **Today's Music**

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen. Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926, Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987. Augsburg Fortress.

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done. Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832–1909,

Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525–1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823–1889. Public Domain. With High Delight Let Us Unite. Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–1599; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt.

Music: Medieval European tune. CPH Publishing (SESAC) / Public Domain.

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia. Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922,

Music: Tanzanian traditional. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise. Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927. Augsburg Fortress.

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain. Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt., Music: Johann Horn, 1490–1547. Public Domain / CPH Publishing (SESAC).

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# **Next Week's Readings**

Acts 4:5-12 Salvation in the name of Jesus Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd 1 John 3:16-24 Love in truth and action John 10:11-18 Christ the Shepherd