

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18, 2021

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP



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 Sunday. 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.

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

### HYMN

**"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"**

*Please sing the hymn or pray the verses.*

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

### *Refrain*

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;  
breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain***

**Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain***

**Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent: death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain***

**City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
river of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain***

## **GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

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**

*After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing 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.*

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? 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. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 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.

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

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

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

*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. 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. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

As people who are searching and longing for the good news, we proclaim:

**Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

*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 Gospel of Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 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.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish,<sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

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.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HOMILY

## HYMN

**“Open Our Eyes, Lord”**

*Please sing the hymn or pray the verse.*

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.**

**Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.**

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

Text: Bob Cull, b. 1949  
Music: OPEN OUR EYES, Bob Cull, b. 1949

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## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.*

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. 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.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered as one in Christ, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN**

### **“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”**

*Please sing the hymn or pray the verse.*

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.**

**In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.**

**Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the Good News!

**Thanks be to God.**