



***Third Sunday in Easter
St. John's Lutheran Church
April 14th, 2024***

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.

*(Please be aware that as we stream this service to a live audience you may appear on camera when you are worshiping with us. We welcome those who attend online and are part of our worshiping community! Please respond with the words in **bold** print and stand, as you are able at the places marked with an *****.)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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 your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!



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. 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.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

***Opening Hymn....."Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia".....ELW #364, v. 1, 2, 3**

**Christ has arisen, alleluia.
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,
even from death, dispelling its gloom.**

Refrain

**For three long days the grave did its worst
until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who gives life did death undergo,
and in its conquest his might did show**

Refrain

Refrain

**Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
Death's fearful sting he has come to
destroy.**

**Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!**

**The angel said to them, "Do not fear.
You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare.
Only the graveclothes are lying there."**

Refrain

***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.

*Kyrie, ELW p. 175



Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .



so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on



dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.



Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Christ, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Christ, have . .



so - tros. Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie -
mer - cy. Christ, . . have mer - cy on



dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Christ, have . . mer - cy.



Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .



so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on



dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.

***Canticle of Praise, ELW p. 176**



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.



Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.

***Prayer of the Day**

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

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.

¹²[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?"¹³The 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. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And 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.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰so 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, ²¹who 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.



***Gospel Acclamation, ELW p.179**

*;*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*;*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*;*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! *;*A - le - lu - ya!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

***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.

*Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look 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.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then 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.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ 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,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.”

Response after the conclusion: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message.....Pastor Keith Weatherford

Children in preschool through 5th grade are invited to join us downstairs for Sunday School. We will bring them up for communion and you can pick them up after worship in the Sunday School room downstairs.

Sermon.....Pastor Keith Weatherford

Silence for reflection.



Touch That Soothes and Heals
See My Hands and Feet



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's
4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
peo - ple, first and last. Know with - in each act of
wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

Refrain



"See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as



ones I died to save."

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CIVILITY, Gregg DeMey, b. 1972

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*** Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Prayer Response (each portion of the prayers ends with these words):

God of Grace,
hear our prayer.

***Sharing of the Peace**

...Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)

As Christ welcomed everyone, let us open our hearts and lives and be like Christ to everyone we meet. The peace of the Lord be with you,

And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.)

Offering

(An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need, and the communion table is set.)

Offertory Anthem.....St. John's Sanctuary Choir

"Come and See" by Ray Makeever

Today's anthem is a fun, upbeat song, reminiscent of spirituals, with the solos reminding us of Bible truths. The refrain encourages us to take note of what "is" happening! Please join us in the refrain (easy, and listed below).

We have seen the Messiah in the water!

We have seen the Messiah on the road to Galilee, found the Messiah!

Come and see! O come and see!

Offertory Hymn....."Create in Me a Clean Heart" ELW #185

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

***Offering Prayer**

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen

***Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

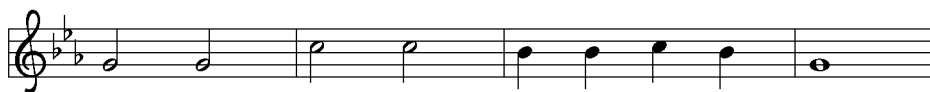
We lift them to the Lord.

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 to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, 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 angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus, ELW p.181**



San - to, san - to, san - to es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on



tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the



nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.



di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

***Words of Institution**

For in the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you, do this in 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 which is shed for you and for all people for the for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." As we have died with Christ so have we risen with Him. Remembering this life saving grace and resurrection, we join with all creation in praising Your name.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again. 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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

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

Amen.

***Invitation to Communion**

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

Come and eat at God's table.

(We celebrate open communion and all who are baptized are welcome to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.)

Lamb of God, ELW p.182



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



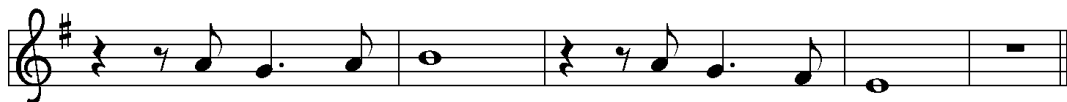
Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Communion Hymn“Around Your, O Lord Jesus”ELW #468

**Around you, O Lord Jesus,
your own you gather still
to share the feast you give us
with grace our lives to fill.
You say to us so lovingly,
“Take, eat! This is my body!
Take, drink! This is my blood!”**

**We hear your invitation,
and heed, O Lord, your call;
your word of consolation
is spoken here to all.
It draws us to your loving heart;
it brings to us your blessing,
which never will depart.**

**We are your own forever;
until our final breath
we will be true and never
in joy, in grief, in death
depart from you, for you are still
among your people dwelling,
as you have said you will.**

Communion Hymn.....“By Your Hand You Feed Your People”..... ELW #469

**By your hand you feed your people,
food of angels, heaven's bread.
For these gifts we did not labor,
by your grace have we been fed:**

Refrain
**Christ's own body, blessed and broken,
cup o'er flowing, life outpoured,
given as a living token
of your world redeemed, restored.**

**In this meal we taste your sweetness,
bread for hunger, wine of peace.
Holy word and holy wisdom
satisfy our deepest needs. *Refrain***

**Send us now with faith and courage
to the hungry, lost, bereaved.
In our living and our dying,
we become what we receive: *Refrain***

Communion Hymn.....“As We Gather At Your Table”..... ELW

**As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.**

**Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

#522

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.**

***Prayer after Communion**

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.**

***Benediction**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope ☐ bless you now and always.
Amen.

***Sending Hymn....."Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" ELW #373 v. 1, 4, 5**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
Praise to thee by both be giv'n.
Thee we greet triumphant now:
hail, the resurrection, thou!**

**"Christ the Lord is ris'n today!"
All on earth with angels say;
raise your joys and triumphs high;
sing, O heav'ns; and earth, reply.**

**Lives again our glorious king!
Where, O death, is now your sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
where your victory, O grave?**

***Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen
Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia!
Alleluia. Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us today!

Ministering in Worship

Preaching & Presiding	Rev. Keith Weatherford
Organist	Dodie Walsh
Choir Director	Connie Conley
Interim Bell Choir Director	Nicole Evans
Technology	Angela Conley
Acolytes	Ayla Munding-Adsay, Ben Munding-Adsay, EB Slocum, Kinley Weatherford
Ushers	
Lector	Cliff Roessner
Communion Servers	Cliff Roessner
Altar Guild	Barb Muir, Laura Nachtsheim, Darcie Dunlap, Annette Jacobson

In our prayers: Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Isla Johnson, Jeff Wahl, Bill Berg, Christina Tielking, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Ken Downing, Mark and Renee Slocum, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, Meg Biggs and family, Richard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes

For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care: June Jabs, mother of Gayle Grimsrud, Elana Icenoggle, Hazel Aasved, and All the Saints in Heaven

For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound: Mary Marty, Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Jimmie McGee

For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy: Evan Ceaicovschi, Raffy Suchikul

Missionaries: Missionaries around the world, Willie Langdji in Cameroon

St. John's Lutheran Church
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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, April 14th

9:30 am-Worship w/Holy Communion

10:30 am-Fellowship

11:00 am- New Testament Bible Study

Monday, April 15th

10:00 am-Staff meeting

5:00 pm-Brass Rehearsal

6:00 pm-Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, April 16th

Noon- NT Bible Study

5:30 pm- Church Council

Wednesday, April 17th

9:00 am-Quilting

5:30 pm-Dinner

6:30 pm-Worship

7:00 pm-Faith Formation

Thursday, April 18th

7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 21st

9:30 am-Worship w/Holy Communion

10:30 am-Fellowship

11:00 am-New Testament Bible Study

Ministering in Worship

There are many wonderful ways to help serve during our worship service each week! We are always looking for greeters, lectors, communion servers, ushers, and acolytes. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Keith or call the office. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex or call the office (406-442-6270).

Music Festival Participants!

Are you preparing a solo for the high school district music festival? We would love to have you share your piece in church! Please contact Gretchen for scheduling.

Mark your calendars!

On Mother's Day, May 12th, the choir wants to include families in our anthem that day! We will be singing a lovely arrangement of "Jesus Loves Me", and you can come to our rehearsal time before the worship that day, at 9:00, in the Fair Chapel. The choir will not be wearing robes that day, and will sit with the congregation for this special day! I chose this song for this event because of its longevity and familiarity, often one of the first songs we learned as young children in our early Sunday School days. Come and sing with us, and even learn the ASL signs to the refrain of this beloved song! Come and sing with us!

Volunteers Needed!

The Women's ministry is hosting coffee before service on Mother's Day, May 12. Volunteers are needed to help serve coffee and clean up. Please reach out to Danyel Bauer (406) 465-5050 if you can assist.

Women's Spring Retreat at FLBC

Our Women's ministry (Women of the ELCA) is creating two baskets for the silent auction. Funds provide scholarships for the retreat next year. One basket will be consumable items like chocolate/coffee/cocoa and the other will be for personal care products like hand lotion/bath salts. Please donate any items to Danyel Bauer (406) 465-5050.

Can't make it this year, but still want to participate? Here's how you can help! Our Service Project this year is Welcome Bags for Babies. These are designed to 'gift' new mothers with a useful welcoming gift to the newest members of our community. These bags will be sent home to congregations to be distributed to organizations who support families in need. This will directly benefit the Helena area. Bring these items to fill our bags:

Size 1 Diapers

Sleeper Gowns (0-6 months)

Receiving Blankets

Baby Socks (0-6 months)

Baby Wipes

Onesies

Baby Books

Pacifiers (nuks)



Please contact Danyel Bauer at (406) 465-5050 if you would like to donate any items.

Sponsored by Women of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Five Valleys and Great Divide Cluster