

Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 18, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

215 N. Warren St.

Orwigsburg, PA

570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" G. F. Handel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
 strife. “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
 say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

He is Lord, He is Lord!

[Sung Twice]

He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is

Lord! Ev-ry knee shall bow, ev-ry tongue con-fess

That Je-sus Christ is Lord.

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.

WORD

A Reading from Acts

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.”

(Acts 3:12-19)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 4 (Read responsively)

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;

you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;**

how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?”

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;

when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin;**

speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,

and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!”**

Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.

⁷You have put gladness in my heart,

more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

⁸**I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;**

for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

A Reading from 1 John

¹See 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. ²Beloved, 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. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as

he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You

know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one

who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little

children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

(1 John 3:1-7)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain

Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!

Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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.

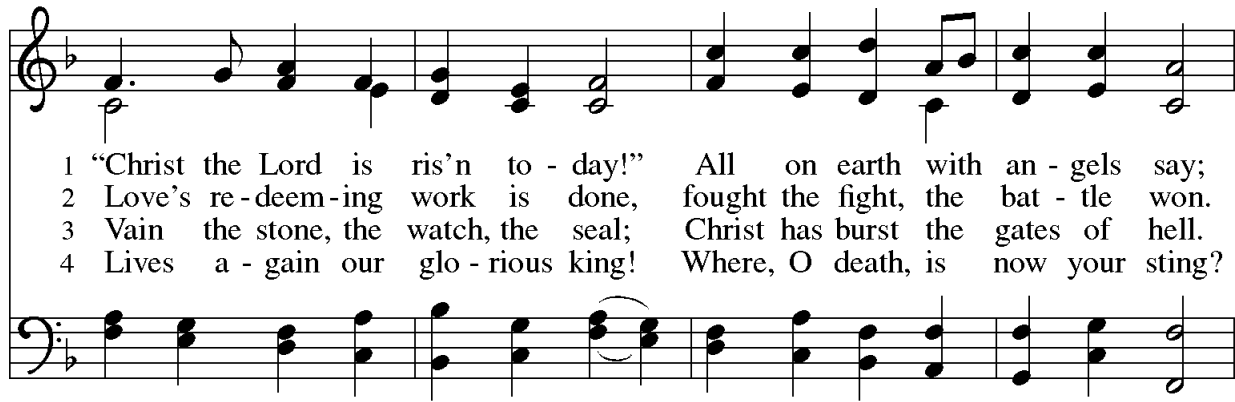
⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that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

(Luke 24:36b-48)

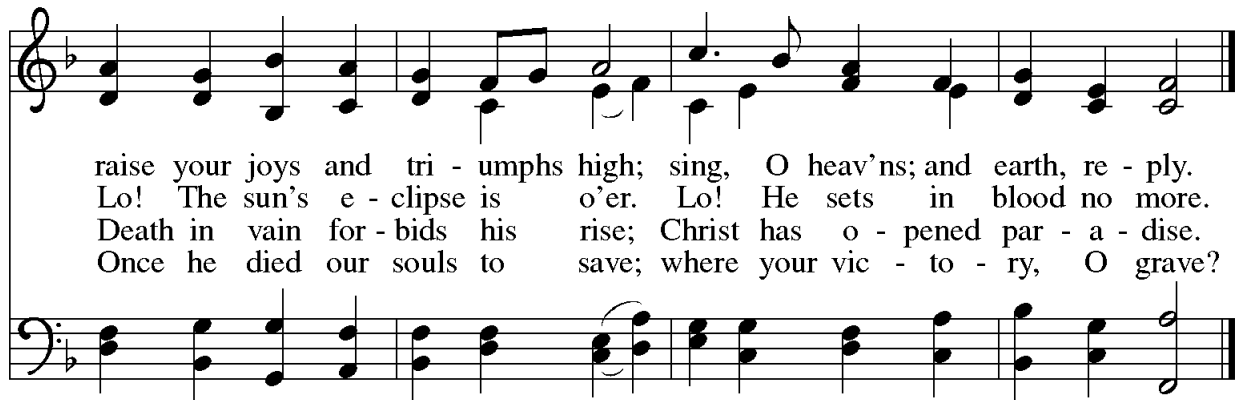
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY Christ the Lord is Risen Today



1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day!" All on earth with an - gels say;
2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.
3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.
4 Lives a - gain our glo - rious king! Where, O death, is now your sting?



raise your joys and tri - umphs high; sing, O heav'ns; and earth, re - ply.
Lo! The sun's e - clipse is o'er. Lo! He sets in blood no more.
Death in vain for - bids his rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
Once he died our souls to save; where your vic - to - ry, O grave?

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!

6 King of glory, soul of bliss,
everlasting life is this:
thee to know, thy pow'r to prove,
thus to sing, and thus to love!

SERMON

THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

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.

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, 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, bring healing and new life to 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, 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, grant compassion and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering (*especially everyone afflicted with COVID-19 and everyone on our prayer list*). Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful Father, 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. Let us look forward to the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(The Pastor concludes): 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

May Almighty God open your heart and mind,
so that you may know and love the † risen Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Christ has risen. Death has no power over him.
He is risen indeed. Let us rejoice and sing his praise.
Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Christ the Lord Hath Risen T. Birchwood
Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Introduction to the day: 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.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (4/18/21)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Amy Dewald; GREETER: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Leslie Guldin; GREETER: Jim Spotts; USHER: Chris Long

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (4/25/21)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers; GREETER: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Eric Eger; GREETER: Jim Spotts

USHERS: Gloria Dierwechter and Joyce O'Rourke

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Gloria Dierwechter

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Juli's birthday by Sue and Kurt Schenck.

Chancel flowers are presented in honor of Victoria Spitler by her parents, Tina and Scott Butler

Bulletins are presented in honor of Heather Lynn's birthday by her parents, Barry and Dana Jenkins.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, April 18	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday, April 19	6:00 PM	Worship & Music
Thursday, April 22		Earth Day
	7:00 PM	Adult Forum Zoom meeting
Friday, April 23	1:30 PM	STiC Sojourn in Tumbling Run, PA
Saturday, April 24	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, April 25	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship

SENDING HYMN

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!