



Third Sunday of Easter April 14, 2024

Whenever you see an asterisk (*), you are invited to stand as you are able.

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.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name if the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. A: Amen.

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

P: 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.

P: Let us confess our sin, in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **A: Amen.**



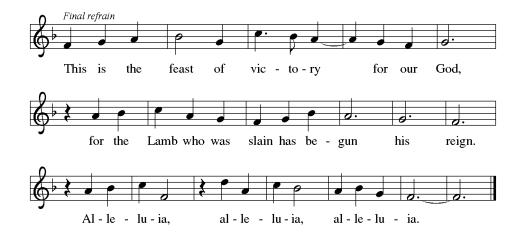
Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **A: And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE





*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. A: And also with you.

P: 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. **A: Amen**

ANTHEM: ""

Christ still rises when fear grips our city,
when death takes no pity,
when much is unknown.
 Christ still rises when friends are divided,
when joy feels misguided,
when we are alone.
 Christ still rises when churches are shuttered,
when praises are muttered,
when prayers go unsaid.
 Christ still rises when peace has all faded,
when we are most jaded,
when faith turns to dread,
when faith turns to dread.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984; © 2020, GIA Publications, Inc.

(Benjamin Brody)

2. Christ still rises when we give to neighbors, when we share our labors, when strangers belong.

Christ still rises when we come together, when love is our tether, when hope is our song.

Christ still rises when grieving is ended, when bodies are mended, when beauty heals pain.

Christ still rises when fear has retreated, when death is defeated and joy will remain, and joy will remain.

Word

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 6:1-9A

Isaiah's call has remarkable similarities to today's Gospel reading – in both cases humans face an awesome, even terrifying sight and are commissioned to be messengers.

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!' ⁹And he said, 'Go and speak to this people."'

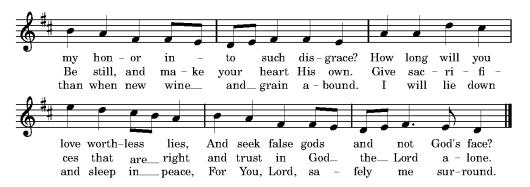
L: The word of the Lord. A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 4

(Sung to the tune Guidance LBW 501)

This psalm is the confident song of those who have turned back to God and been reconciled.





SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 3:1-7

During the Easter season this year, we will be reading from John's letters to his community. A central part of John's message was the love Jesus's followers had for one another, and the unity which faith provides. This correspondence, however, comes from a time when the community was divided and splintering. In the preceding passage, John echoes the new commandment which Jesus gave his followers in the Upper Room: that they love one another. John also warns them of false teachers who would lead them to disa vow this commandment.

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.

L: The word of the Lord. A: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Gospel Reading – Luke 24:36b-48

The two disciples who encountered the resurrected Jesus on the road to Emmaus immediately returned to Jerusalem to give the news to the rest of his followers, only to find out that Peter had also seen him, and to experience yet another of his appearances.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

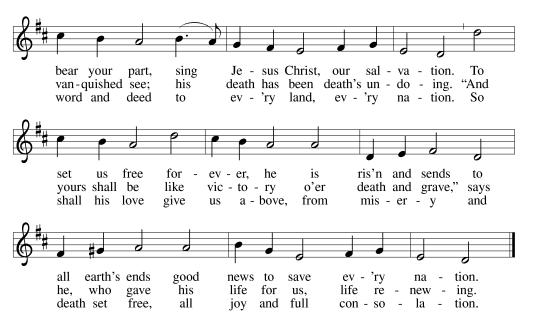
^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. 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."

L: The gospel of the Lord. **A: Praise to you, O Christ**.

SERMON





Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–1599; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt. Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune Text € 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*Invitation to Baptism

*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

L: 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.

L: 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, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty (*especially*). God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

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

A: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died especially Layton B. Jones. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace, **A: hear our prayer.**

L: 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. **A: Amen.**

*PEACE

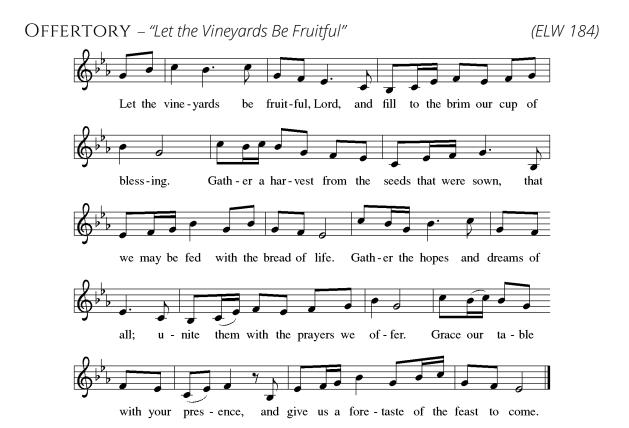
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. A: And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

Offerings can be made online at stpaulpgm.org/give, mailed to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 200, Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868, placed in the mail slot (outside door to Pastor Paul's office), or in the offering plate located in the lobby/narthex near the entrance of the sanctuary.

MUSICAL OFFERING



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927 Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

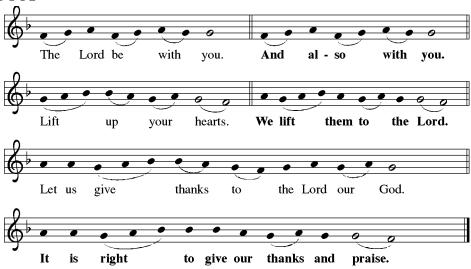
*Offering Prayer

L: Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

A: Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

* DIALOGUE



*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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

*SANCTUS





high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho



san-na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was handed over, 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.

Through our remembrance we proclaim the mystery of our faith

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore,

his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

A: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

A: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

A: Amen

*LORD'S PRAYER

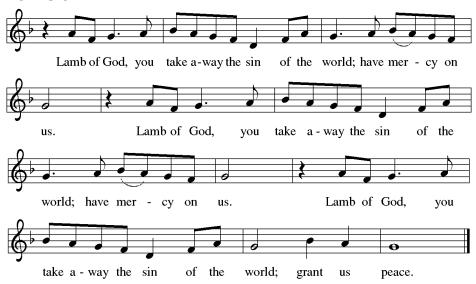
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

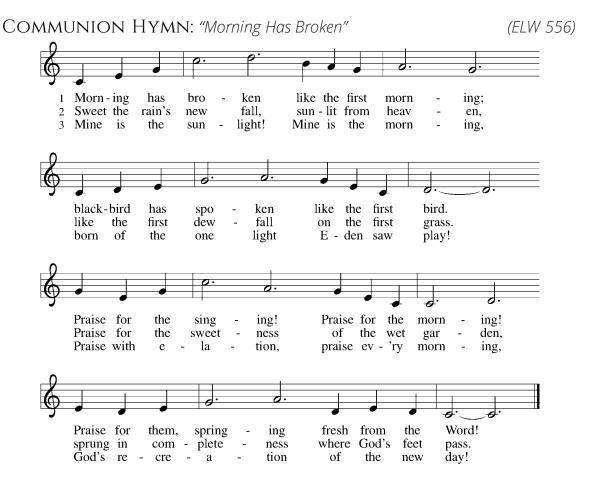
P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

*LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. A: Amen.



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

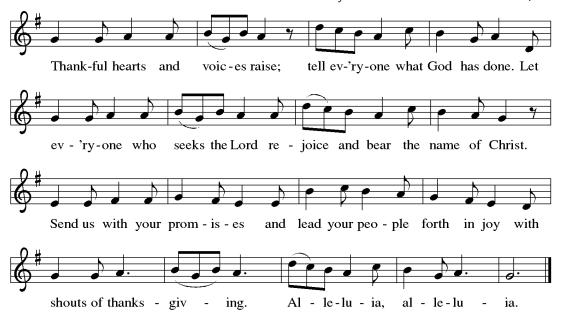
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strength and keep you, body, mind, and soul, now and unto eternal life. **A: Amen**

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



*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **A: Amen.**

Sending

*SENDING OF COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may be seated.

*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. **A: Amen.**





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

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia!



Text: Symphonia Sirenum, Köln, 1695; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909

Music: VICTORY, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525-1594; arr. William H. Monk, 1823-1889

*DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen. A: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE



Daily Readings for the week

Sunday, April 14

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4 (3)

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Monday, April 15

Jeremiah 30:1-11a

1 John 3:10-16

Psalm 150

Tuesday, April 16

Hosea 5:15—6:6

2 John 1-6

Psalm 150

Wednesday, April 17

Proverbs 9:1-6

Mark 16:9-18

Psalm 150

Thursday, April 18

Genesis 30:25-43

Acts 3:17-26

Psalm 23

Friday, April 19

Genesis 46:28-47:6

Acts 4:1-4

Psalm 23

Saturday, April 20

Genesis 48:8-19

Mark 6:30-34

Psalm 23

NITTANY CONFERENCE CAUCUS

You are invited to attend the Nittany Conference Caucus 7PM April 22. This will be happening at Saint Mark's Lutheran in Pleasant Gap. We will be discussing the ELCA's draft social statement "Civic Life and Faith" as well as other matters coming up during Synod Assembly.

While Synod assembly representatives are required to attend, anyone is welcome to attend as well.

BISHOP PAULA'S LAST NAME

Bishop Paula has changed her last name from Schmitt to Lebo (pronounced "LEE-bow" [as in a tied ribbon] IPA: liˌboʊ) If you see any correspondence from her, now you know.

CLEARWATER CONSERVANCY WATERSHED CLEAN-UP DAY

This coming Saturday is Watershed clean up day! If you are at all interested, reach out to Morgen Hummel for more details. We will be cleaning up the areas around Slab Cabin Run.



SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader	Pastor Paul Tomkiel
Assisting Minister	Sydney Bennington
Musician	Michelle McMullen
Sacristan	Delorse Homan
Reader	Morgen Hummel
Guitar	Morgen Hummel
Violin	Whitney McMullen

ABOUT ST. PAUL

PURPOSE

We are a beacon, boldly sharing the light of Jesus' grace and love.

MISSION

Guided by Jesus, we strengthen faith, deepen compassion, extend generosity, and serve community.

CORE VALUES

Faith • Compassion • Generosity • Community

OUR BIBLE VERSES

As Paul was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. [Jesus said,] 'Paul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the nations.' – Acts 9:3,15

Land Acknowledgement

St. Paul is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock people, where we gather for worship this morning. We also acknowledge the Seneca, Cayuga, Lenne Lenape, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

COPYRIGHT AND LICENSE INFORMATION

From <u>sundaysandseasons.com</u>. Copyright (c) 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000528. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright (c) 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Hymns reprinted and streamed under OneLicense Annual License, A-726322 for Aug 11, 2023 - Aug 10, 2024. Words found in psalm taken from Seedbed.com, written by Tim and Julie Tennent. Permission is granted to use these metrical settings for public worship with acknowledgement of the source. Permission is not granted for commercial use or financial charge.