

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Resurrection Affirmation

See the Father's Love!

April 18, 2021



## AS WE GATHER

“Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?” (Luke 24:38). These are questions our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ asked of His disciples in another resurrection appearance after that first Easter morning. They are questions that could also be asked of us numerous times in our daily lives as we face trouble and doubts. Yet as Jesus kept on appearing, He kept on showing them Himself, and more than that, He continued to teach and remind them that all that was written was fulfilled in and through Him. Though we cannot physically touch His hands and side, each time we gather, Jesus continues to speak to us, affirming His work, the Word fulfilled, and the worth of humanity for whom He came. Amid troubles and doubts, through Christ, we can “see what kind of love the Father has given to us” (1 John 3:1). Often, a person knows he or she is loved by what is done by another. From the words said, actions shown, and even at times gifts given from parents to children, spouses to each other, friends among one another, and more, we can often sense the motivation of love behind many forms of kindness and care. How can we know God’s love for us? It’s in some ways similar to our earthly relationships, but is from One who always loves perfectly. “See what kind of love the Father has given to us” (1 John 3:1). The Lord speaks His Word of unchanging truth, promise, and hope. He gives the action of sending His one and only Son to this world to live, die, and be raised to life that we may have a new and forgiven life in Him. He gives the gift of His Means of Grace claiming us as His own in Baptism and providing Christ’s body and blood for our forgiveness of sins and nourishment of faith. Unlike love shown in temporal earthly ways, His love is eternal and everlasting and one we are blessed to see with eyes of faith and know in our hearts as we continue in this Easter season, rejoicing in the fact that Christ is risen!

✂ PREPARATION ✂

### **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

We thank you, God, for drawing us to this place and time and for interrupting us with your gift of life in Christ. Whether we have heard the news many times over, or are this day listening with brand new ears, surprise us with your justice and righteousness, that our lives might turn in the right direction; startle us with your goodness and mercy, that we might receive your empowering forgiveness; Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on, illuminating the places where you are present. As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance, you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of peace. You showed them the appalling marks of evil pierced on your hands and feet. You opened their minds to understand why you had to die to defeat such evil and death. Increase our understanding, we pray, and open our minds and hearts to receive you, Lord. Speak your word of peace to us and let your love shine on any dark areas in our lives. May this worship which we offer in your name be a worthy response to your love and your sacrifice for us. Amen.

### **HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED:**

As a Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) church, we believe and confess that through the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper we receive the true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine. As we commune with faith and repentance, we receive the forgiveness of sins and power to amend our sinful lives. If you confess the same belief, we invite you to our fellowship of the Lord’s Supper.

### **WELCOME:**

**WELCOME TO GOD’S HOUSE:** We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and we would like you to know that God loves you and so do we. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." We hope that you will join us in praise and worship as we strive to build brotherly and sisterly fellowship in Christ. Everybody is somebody in God's house. The same God worketh in all; "For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also, is Christ," Welcome!

**SELECTION**

**Minister Terry Dale**

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 16:11b; 30:1–3*

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: In Your presence there is fullness of joy;

People: **at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Pastor: I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up

People: **and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

Pastor: O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.

People: **O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 3:1; Psalm 30:4–5; 16:11b*

Pastor: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” Gracious Lord, by Your name You have called us Your own children, and we are to pray, praise, and give thanks to You.

People: **Yet we often choose not to see the love You have given to us, letting other things of this world impede our vision of Your mercy and grace in Christ. We do not always live as You have called us to be as Your children.**

Pastor: We confess our sins to God in repentance, turning from those things that lead us away, turning back to You in the love You’ve shown.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord,

People: **we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess our many failures as we have not followed You joyfully and trustingly. We have not loved others as You have first loved us, and our thoughts, words, and deeds have not been pleasing to You. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**

Pastor: Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints,  
People: **and give thanks to His holy name.**

Pastor: For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.  
People: **Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: In Your presence there is fullness of joy;  
People: **at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Pastor: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As His children, may He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a renewed life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

**✠ WORD ✠**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**                      **“This I Know” TFBF 249 Sts. 1, 2 and 4**

1 Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open wide; he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. [Refrain]

4 Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside me all the way; when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. [Refrain]

## **SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

O almighty and eternal God, You have assured us of the completion of our forgiveness and new life in You through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. You call us Your children through the waters of Baptism and give us eyes to see Your love for us in Your only-begotten Son. Give us the will to show forth in our lives the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**    *Acts 3:11–21* (Peter preaches salvation through Christ.)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **SELECTION**

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## **EPISTLE**    *1 John 3:1–7* (We are God's children now.)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **VERSE**

*Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32*

Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *Luke 24:36–49*     (Amid disciples' doubts, the resurrected Christ affirms the fulfillment of God's Word.)

**Leader:**     The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**People:**     **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

**Leader:**     This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**     **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SELECTION**

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**SERMON**

**SELECTION**

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**(We Bring Our Tithes and Offering To The Lord)**

**CREED**     **The Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**      *1 John 3:1–7*

Leader: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God, and so we are.

**People: Thank you Father for making us your children.**

Leader: Lord, in Your love You have called us as Your own, gathered us together, and enlightened us by Your Spirit through Your Word. We bring to You our prayer and praise. Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for all people of the world, that the Easter joy that shines by the radiance of Your Son, our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, would arise in the hearts and minds of all people. Grant all Your people the needs of body and life by the daily bread You provide, and keep all from harm.

**People: Lord in Your mercy hear our prayers.**

Leader: Lord of all care, give comfort to those who face troubles in this life in their spiritual, emotional, and mental need. Give healing according to Your will for those who face physical trials, [*including . . .*]. Grant peace to all who mourn, that Christ's Easter victory would point beyond earthly death and the grave to the promises assured forevermore.

**People: Lord in Your mercy hear our prayers.**

Leader: Lord of all provision, look with favor upon our land and all-in authority that they lead with wisdom and compassion for all. Be with those who serve and defend from harm, and those who work to keep communities safe and in order. Bless all vocations that all would see their work for others as joyful service to You and Your creation.

Grant Your Spirit that our eyes always be open to see Your love for us in Christ through Your Word and Means of Grace, that as we live as Your children we love as You have first loved us and confidently witness and proclaim the Easter joy within us to all.

**People: Lord in Your mercy hear our prayers.**

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### **PREFACE**    *2 Timothy 4:22*

**Pastor:**     The Lord be with you.

**People:**     **And also with you.**

**Pastor:**     Lift up your hearts.

**People:**     **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:**     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:**     **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

**Pastor:**     It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. As Your children, You have given us a perfect love to see Your Son, Jesus Christ, in His humble birth, perfect life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection, by which You give us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

### **SANCTUS**    (He Is Lord TFBF 95)

He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord! Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**    *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;  
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**LORD'S PRAYER**    *Matthew 6:9–13*

### **PAX DOMINI**

**Pastor:**     The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:**     **Amen.**



**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (Soft Music)** “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” [ TLH 200]

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us in, with, and under bread and wine with the body and blood of Your dear Son. Strengthen our faith in You and in our love for others in Your kingdom and throughout our community, country, and world, as we strive not only to see Your love, but also continue to grow in it and be nourished through faith as Your children and rejoice in the grace You give; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God;

**People: and so we are.**

Pastor: In Your presence there is fullness of joy;

**People: at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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