Sunday, April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Call to Worship

God of signs and wonders,
you have revealed to us that
Jesus Christ is your son and our Savior.
We come, asking you to strengthen our faith,
that we may have life in Christ’s name. Amen.

Hymn

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

#248

1 Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
all creation is amazed.  
In the desert all-surrounding,  
see, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding  
bring a taste of love unknown.

2 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits  
from the caverns of despair.  
Walk with gladness in the morning.  
See what love can do and dare.  
Drink the wine of resurrection,  
not a servant, but a friend.  
Jesus is our strong companion.  
Joy and peace shall never end.

3 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven  
evermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation  
where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:  
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"  
God the First and Last is with us.  
Sing Hosanna everyone!

Call to Confession

We find ourselves living in the shadows these days; even losing sight of the  
source of light in our lives. We wander in our backyards, alone, looking for God  
in these days. Yet we are still in Easter people! Let us speak of our fears of  
having the resurrection promise wiped away by the virus of fear and panic. Let  
us pray together, saying,

[Unison Prayer for Forgiveness]

As we walk through the shadows of our lives, unable to gather with  
friends and family, we come to you, seeking evidences of your love. We  
stand before the open door of hope, wondering if we dare enter.  
Uncertain of the good news offered to us, we too often return to the  
comfort of our familiar ways rather than trusting in you.
Yet you arose;  
You come, as you came  
to the disciples,  
opening the gates of hope,  
so we might walk in the gardens of hope;  
you come, to open the gates of resurrection,  
so we might know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept for personal confession

Assurance of Pardon

This is the day of resurrection and new life. This is the day God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end.

We will sing and dance on this day! We are still, we will be again, we are always Easter people! We will rejoice and give thanks to the God who saves us. Amen.

Response  
Glory to God  
#583

Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God,  
alleluia, alleluia!

Gloria, gloria,  
in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria,  
alleluia, alleluia!

A Time for Children

Hymn  
Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread  
#500

1 Be known to us in breaking bread,  
but do not then depart;  
Savior, abide with us, and spread  
your table in our heart.

2 Here share with us, in love divine,  
your body and your blood,  
that living bread, that heavenly wine  
be our immortal food.
Prayer

Almighty God,
by the resurrection of Jesus Christ
you broke the power of death
and opened the way to eternal life.
As the empty tomb stands witness
to his triumph over death,
make we, your church,
make a bold testimony
to his enduring victory in life,
that all we do may proclaim to the world,
“He is risen, indeed!”
Through Christ, who lives with you

Scripture

First Reading Acts 2:14a, 36-41

14a But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,
36 Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” 38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” 40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
2 Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
3 The snares of death encompassed me;  
   the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
   I suffered distress and anguish.

4 Then I called on the name of the LORD:  
   “O LORD, I pray, save my life!”

12 What shall I return to the LORD  
   for all his bounty to me?

13 I will lift up the cup of salvation  
   and call on the name of the LORD,

14 I will pay my vows to the LORD  
   in the presence of all his people.

15 Precious in the sight of the LORD  
   is the death of his faithful ones.

16 O LORD, I am your servant;  
   I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
   You have loosed my bonds.

17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
   and call on the name of the LORD.

18 I will pay my vows to the LORD  
   in the presence of all his people,

19 in the courts of the house of the LORD,  
   in your midst, O Jerusalem.

   Praise the LORD!

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:17-23

17 If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to  
their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.  
18 You know that  
you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not  
with perishable things like silver or gold,  
19 but with the precious blood of  
Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.  
20 He was destined before  
the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your  
sake.  
21 Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the  
dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

22 Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that  
you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.  
23 You  
have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the  
living and enduring word of God.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.
Sermon

He Made Himself Known!

Hymn

Alleluia, Alleluia, Sing Praise #240

REFRAIN:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Give praise to his name

1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. [Refrain]

2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen. [Refrain]

3 We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. [Refrain]

4 Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Savior. [Refrain]

Together, We Confess Our Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In everlasting love,
the god of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the House of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home
God is faithful still.
We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves  
and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the church  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory be to the father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit Amen

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer  
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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn  
*Thine is the Glory*  
#238

1 Thine is the glory,  
risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory  
thou o’er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay.
REFRAIN

Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.

2 Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
dead hath lost its sting.

[Refrain]

3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above.

[Refrain]

SENDING

Opportunities for Fellowship and Service

Charge and Benediction
You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there’ll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.