

**April 18, 2021**

# **Third Sunday of Easter**



Duccio di Buoninsegna, Christ Appears to the Disciples at the Table after the Resurrection, 1308-1311

**We are filled with joy at your presence and hope you experience God's Spirit as you worship and meet with those around you. If you would like more information about RPC, please talk with any Session member or the Pastor.**

## ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

**Bold Letters -- Indicate congregational response**

### GATHERING

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

When Jesus speaks, our hearts burn within us;

**Our eyes are opened when he breaks bread.**

Beloved, we are God's children now;

**when Christ is revealed, we will be like him.**

**Gathering Hymn**

***Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain***

**#234**

**1** Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought forth Israel  
into joy from sadness,  
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters;  
led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.

**2** 'Tis the spring of souls today:  
Christ has burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as a sun has risen.  
All the winter of our sins,  
long and dark, is flying  
from the Light, to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.

**3** Now the queen of seasons, bright  
with the day of splendor,  
with the royal feast of feasts  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem,  
who with true affection

welcomes in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection!

4 Neither could the gates of death,  
nor the tomb's dark portal,  
nor the watchers, nor the seal  
hold you as a mortal:  
but today, among your own,  
you appear, bestowing  
your deep peace, which evermore  
passes human knowing.

### **Opening Prayer**

Almighty God,  
Through your only Son you overcame death  
And opened to us the gate of everlasting life.  
Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection,  
May, through the renewing power of your Spirit,  
Arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness;  
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you  
In the unity of Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Call to Confession**

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God,  
in raising Jesus from the grave,  
you shattered the power of sin and death.  
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,  
bound by the ways that lead to death.  
We overlook the poor and the hungry,  
and pass by those who mourn;  
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,  
and indifferent to calls for peace;**

**we despise the weak,  
and abuse the earth you made.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy.  
Help us to trust your power  
to change our lives and make us new,  
that we may know the joy of life abundant  
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

*Silence is Kept for personal confession*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints.  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**  
**Amen.**

### **Response in Praise**

***Halle, Halle, Hallelujah***

**#591**

***Refrain:***

**Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

## **THE WORD**

### **A Time with the Children**

### **First Reading**

**Acts 3:12-19**

**Lay Leader:** Amy Macomber

<sup>12</sup>When Peter saw it, he 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? <sup>13</sup>The 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. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And 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.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

### **Luke 24:36b-48**

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

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

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

“Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Beginning From...**

**Unity Hymn**

***The Church's One Foundation***

**#321**

**1 The church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
She is his new creation  
by water and the word.  
From heaven he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride.  
With his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.**

**2 Elect from every nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation:  
one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with every grace endued.**

**3 Though with a scornful wonder  
this world sees her oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder,  
by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.**

4 Mid toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace forevermore:  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union  
with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
may live eternally.

#### **Together, We Confess Our Faith**

#### **The Apostle's Creed (Traditional)**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

#### **RESPONDING**

#### **Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings**

#### **Offertory**

**Doxology**                      *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**#606**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Eternal God,  
we praise you that your glory has dawned on us,  
and brought us into this Day of Resurrection.  
We rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son,  
and that he has conquered death,

risen to rule over all powers of this earth.  
We praise you that he summons us into new life,  
to follow him with joy and gladness.  
By your Spirit,  
lift us from doubt and despair,  
and set our feet in Christ's holy way,  
that our lives may be signs of his life,  
and all we have may show forth his love.  
Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you,  
our God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

### **SENDING**

## **Opportunities for Service and Fellowship**

### **Sending Hymn**

### ***In the Darkness of the Morning***

**#229**

**1 In the darkness of the morning,  
just before the hint of dawn,  
Mary Magdalene discovered  
Jesus Christ, her friend, was gone.**

**2 Days before, she faced his suffering;  
she stayed with him as he died.  
Seeing now his tomb was empty,  
she remained outside and cried.**

**3 As she wept, the warmth of sunrise  
filled the waiting world with light.  
Then she turned and saw a stranger,  
though her tears obscured her sight.**



**4 Asked the man, "Why are you weeping?"  
in a voice she vaguely knew.  
"He is gone, and I must find him,"  
she replied as morning grew.**

**5 "Mary!" said the smiling stranger  
as her vision was restored.  
She cried "Teacher!" and she touched him:  
Jesus Christ, her risen Lord.**

### **Blessing and Charge**

May the steadfast love of the Lord be yours,  
this day and forever. Alleluia!

Christ is risen! Do not be afraid.  
Go and tell this good news to all.

**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Be Still and Know That I Am God</b>	<b>#414</b>
<b>Be still and know that I am God.</b>		
<b>Be still and know that I am God.</b>		

### **Postlude**