THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 14, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

Luke reports that at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples "disbelieved for joy" (24:41). The theme of rejoicing is woven throughout the Scriptures. The psalmist exhorts: "Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!" (66:1–2). The prophet Isaiah assures God's people that they will have cause for rejoicing as he writes: "For the LORD comforts Zion; . . . joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song" (51:3). Paul writes to people who know of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter day: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). The season of Easter is a time for joyous praise that begins now!

BELL CHOIR "Easter Exaltation" by Dan Edwards

HYMN "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen" LSB 474

1 Alleluia!

Jesus is risen!

Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor, the Lamb,

Heaven forever!

Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! Refrain

ref Jesus is risen and we shall arise:

Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way,

Christ in the center

Telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread,

Giving us glory:

Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain

3 Jesus the vine,

We are the branches;

Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

Heaven to earth,

Christ to the people,

Gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain

4 Weeping, be gone;

Sorrow, be silent:

Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.

Cherubim sing:

"O grave, be open!"

Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. Refrain

5 City of God,

Easter forever.

Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,

River of life,

Saints and archangels,

Sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain

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INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24; Romans 6:9; adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8*

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Pastor: Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: death no longer has dominion over Him.

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.

People: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor. Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People: He has put all things under His feet.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: Almighty God, maker of all things, we confess our sinfulness to You. We are by nature sinful and unclean, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Pastor: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the \maltese Son and of the Holy Spirit. People: Amen.

KYRIE "Have Mercy on Your People, Lord"

Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

Have mercy, Christ, our King.

Renew us by Your mercy, Lord;

Accept the prayers we bring.

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HYMN OF PRAISE HYMN SEQUENCE

Reader: The psalmist writes, "Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him" (98:1). The strains of Easter joy echo through all the services of the Easter season. Each Sunday is a "little Easter" for us to celebrate as together we sing of the victory of our God. We are amazed Easter people, and our amazement is best expressed in our songs of joy. One of the oldest hymns in our hymnbooks is "The Day of Resurrection," written by John of Damascus in the eighth century. Together we sing stanza 1 that celebrates "the passover of gladness."

HYMN "The Day of Resurrection" St. 1: LSB 478

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad, The passover of gladness, The passover of God. From death to life eternal, From sin's dominion free, Our Christ has brought us over

Text: Public domain

With hymns of victory.

Reader: Paul writes: "When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' ... But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:54, 57). The victory of Christ is the lasting source of joy that gives hope to the grieving and assurance to all the faithful. We rejoice as we sing the second stanza of "The Day of Resurrection."

HYMN "The Day of Resurrection" St. 2: LSB 478

Let hearts be purged of evil That we may see aright The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light And, list'ning to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain, His own "All hail!" and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.

Text: Public domain

Reader: John writes in the book of Revelation: "And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast ... standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, 'Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!" (Revelation 15:2–3). The celebration of the victory of Jesus, the Lamb of God slain for our salvation, goes on throughout eternity. We join in the joyful praise as we sing the third stanza of "The Day of Resurrection."

HYMN "The Day of Resurrection" St. 3: LSB 478

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, 3 Let earth its song begin, Let all the world keep triumph And all that is therein. Let all things, seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend; For Christ the Lord has risen. Our joy that has no end! Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, 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 in the heart of Jerusalem.) While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 John 3:1–7 (We are God's children now.) See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke* 24:36–49 (The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHOIR King of Kings Kindergarten

HYMN "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia" *LSB* 466 1 Christ has arisen, alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, alleluia. For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, Even from death, dispelling its gloom. Refrain

ref Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy; Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy. Our sin forgiving, alleluia! Jesus is living, alleluia!

- 2 For three long days the grave did its worst Until its strength by God was dispersed. He who gives life did death undergo; And in its conquest His might did show. Refrain
- The angel said to them, "Do not fear! You look for Jesus who is not here. See for yourselves the tomb is all bare; Only the grave cloths are lying there." Refrain
- 4 "Go spread the news: He's not in the grave; He has arisen this world to save.

 Jesus' redeeming labors are done;

 Even the battle with sin is won." Refrain
- 5 Christ has arisen; He sets us free; Alleluia, to Him praises be. Jesus is living! Let us all sing; He reigns triumphant, heavenly King. Refrain Text: © 1977 Howard S. Olson. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SPECIAL HYMN SEQUENCE

Pastor: Many hymns in the hymnal contain the words "joy," "joyful," "joyfully," and "rejoice." One of these, "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" was inspired in part by Psalm 20:5, a psalm of David, which exhorts: "May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners!" The hymn text by Edward

Plumptre, an English clergyman who lived in the nineteenth century, reminds us that we are part of the much larger assemblage of those who praise God, including "all the angel choirs" and "all the saints on earth." The hymn writer sees God's people as part of an endless procession steadfastly proceeding from the darkness of the world to the brightness of heaven. In its final stanzas, the hymn celebrates the pilgrims reaching their final heavenly destination by God's grace and gives praise to "the Lord whom we adore." Together we sing stanzas 1, 2, 6 and 7 of "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng," LSB 813.

HYMN "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" Sts. 1-2, 6-7: LSB 813

Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing; Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king. Refrain

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

2 With voice as full and strong As ocean's surging praise, Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. Refrain

6 At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest; The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. Refrain

Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore: The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. Refrain

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OFFERING "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you enter the sanctuary, or as the offering plates are passed at this time.

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 salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for You have refreshed us in the forgiveness of Christ. Pour out upon us the gift of Your spirit that with true thanksgiving we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SANCTUS HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Day and night we join to praise Your love and majesty. You alone are holy, worthy, and righteous. God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! We rejoice to join the hymns Of earth and sky and sea. Generations praise You, with saints and angels. Holy and bless'd through all eternity.

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LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25* Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ♣ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My & blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

AGNUS DEI HYMN "O Lamb of God, We Pray"

O Lamb of God, we pray:
Take all our sins away—
Our faith increase.
Have mercy on us all,
Strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call
And grant us peace.

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You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Communion is offered in two ways: the individual cup and the common cup. If you would like the individual cup, please partake as the assistant minister passes by after Pastor gives the bread. If you would like the common cup, let the assistant minister pass by, open your hands palm up, and Pastor will return to give you the common cup.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Spread the Reign of God the Lord" *LSB* 830 1. Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spoken, written, mighty Word; Ev'rywhere His creatures call To His heav'nly banquet hall.

- 2. Tell how God the Father's will Made the world, upholds it still, How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
- 3. Tell of our Redeemer's grace, Who, to save our human race And to pay rebellion's price, Gave Himself as sacrifice.
- 4. Tell of God the Spirit giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n, Strong and holy, just and true, Working both to will and do.
- 5. Enter, mighty Word, the field; Ripe the promise of its yield. But the reapers, oh, how few For the work there is to do!
- 6. Lord of harvest, great and kind, Rouse to action heart and mind; Let the gath'ring nations all See Your light and heed Your call. Text: Public domain

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" *LSB* 477

1. Alleluia, alleluia!

Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:

Sing to God a hymn of gladness,

Sing to God a hymn of praise;

He who on the cross a victim

For the world's salvation bled—

Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,

Now is risen from the dead.

2. Alleluia, Christ is risen!
Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient pow'rs of evil
In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried:
Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
Whom we worship and adore.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior
Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia
To the triune Majesty!

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"Amazing Grace" LSB 744

1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound— That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

- The Lord has promised good to me,
 His Word my hope secures;
 He will my shield and portion be
 As long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease, Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
 We've no less days to sing God's praise
 Than when we'd first begun.
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BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen us so that we may continue to proclaim Your love to all the world and keep us to Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24–26

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.

HYMN "This Joyful Eastertide" *LSB* 482

1 This joyful Eastertide
Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
Has sprung to life this morrow: Refrain

ref Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen!

Death's flood has lost its chill
 Since Jesus crossed the river;
 Lover of souls, from ill
 My passing soul deliver: Refrain

3 My flesh in hope shall rest
And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number: Refrain
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POSTLUDE "Our God Reigns"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:30 a.m.

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: 1 John 3:2 – "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is." This is the essence of our sanctification: becoming like our Lord. As St. John notes, this will only be completed in the Resurrection, but in the meantime, we strive toward that goal because we want to walk in the footsteps of our Lord. By His grace we share His destiny in eternal life, and therefore we desire to share His life of service now.

COUNTERS: We will be holding a class for offering counters on Sunday, May 5 after church in the Garden Room. Current counters and anyone interested in becoming a counter should plan to attend. Please see Nancy W. with questions.

LOST & FOUND: Please check the lost and found table by the office for any items that might be yours. Earrings, gloves, Twins hat, children's items, etc. Anything left unclaimed after April 21 will be discarded.

EMMAUS T-SHIRT: We have one Emmaus T-shirt left, size XL. Contact Marilyn Pierce if you're interested in it.

EMMAUS GARAGE SALE: Items are now being accepted for the upcoming garage sale. Another day has been added to the sale. It will be held Thursday-Saturday, May 16-18. Donations can be brought to the stage area at the back of the Sunday School room. You may price your own items if you have an idea how to price them. Questions or helpful advice, contact Jean G. Proceeds from the garage sale will go toward replacing the Education area's carpeting.

LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS: It is time to renew your subscriptions to *The Lutheran Witness*. Cost for the year is \$24.97 per subscription per year beginning August 2024. Renewals must be into the church office no later than May 15, 2024. Checks should be made out to Emmaus. If you are interested in starting a new subscription, please talk to Maria in the office.

HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR" on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "More Than He Bargained For" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Whatever we ask of Jesus is probably too small, because Jesus provides more than what we expect. (Acts 3:6)

BIKES NEEDED: Espen's Scout Troop is planning its Annual Bike Sale. Do you have a used bike to donate? The Scouts will fix them up (if needed) and sell at the annual Troop 67 Bike Sale Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 a.m. - noon in the Nativity of Our Lord School gym in Saint Paul. Donations appreciated now through the first week of May. Please contact Kjersti, nativitybikesale@gmail.com to arrange a time to drop off, or have someone come to pick up, your donated bike(s). If you're looking for a new bike, mark your calendars now for Saturday, May 4th! Credit/Debit payments only. All proceeds go directly to support Troop 67.

LWML SPRING GATHERING: You are invited to join us for a morning of fellowship, singing, speaker, Bible study, and LWML news at the Women's Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 27 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (674 Johnson Pkwy, St. Paul). Registration is at 9 a.m. \$5 donation. Program is from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. "Why We Need the Global Church" Learn more about the international student ministry at CSP, and the importance and beauty of learning from Christians of other cultures. Gifts from the Heart: disposable diapers and baby wipes for New Life Family Services. Plan to attend? Please notify Beth by April 22nd at 651-631-8956 or stpaulmetrozp@mnslwml.org.

THIS WEEK AT EMMAUS:

Today: 9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Bible Study

Mon: 9 a.m. May Newsletter Deadline

Wed: Bulletin Deadline

1:30 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m. Chair Pahaerral

Thurs: 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Fri: Office closed – call Pastor in emergencies

Sat: 12-5 p.m. Organist Rehearsal Next Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Bible Study

SERVING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY:

PASTOR: Rev. Nick Kooi ALTAR GUILD: Jean G MUSIC LEADER: Paul H SOUND TECH: Marilyn P VIDEO TECH: Simeon N

WORSHIP ASSISTANT: Gene B USHERS: Alan M, Christine S COUNTERS: Jenny H, Marilyn P

LECTOR: Marie G GREETER: Renata B ACOLYTE: Donnegan L

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Faye H