



Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR ONLINE IN-HOME WORSHIP SERVICE

Thank you for joining us today in our online in-home worship service! This service is designed to be used with just one person or with your family and friends who have gathered to thank and praise Jesus for his continued goodness to us. Print as many copies of this bulletin as you wish or follow along looking at this file on any computer, tablet or phone.

Before watching, it may be helpful to remove distractions from the room such as pets, loud toys, etc. Parents might explain to children that we will be worshiping Jesus while the video is playing, listening and responding just like we usually do at church. It might feel a little odd at first to worship this way, but if you explain the situation beforehand, you can expect better participation in your home.

SEASON OF EASTER 2020

Our worship series during the season of Easter is called “Witness.” We will follow the appointed lectionary readings from the book of Acts and see how the disciples carried out the instructions Jesus gave them to be his witnesses, through the power of the Holy Spirit. They were eyewitnesses of the resurrection. Not even the threat of death could stop them from faithfully witnessing to others. Our prayer is that through this worship series, we will be encouraged and empowered to witness to the people around us, starting right here where we live, and reaching out to the ends of the earth. We’ll see where our witnessing power comes from, get practical advice on how to share Christ, and get an idea of what to expect when we proclaim the wonderful Easter message of the risen Savior. God bless you as you witness!



TODAY’S FOCUS

In today’s Gospel Lesson, we meet two more witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection – the two men on the road to Emmaus. We then hear the second half of Peter’s sermon on Pentecost. Now, we may not be first-hand eyewitnesses of Jesus’ resurrection, not with our own eyes. But, with our eyes of faith and through the witness of these Emmaus disciples and Peter, we too witness Jesus to others with our hands, as we hold firmly to Jesus, and as we share generously with others.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless us, O Lord, as we prepare to worship you today. Help us to concentrate on your life-saving gospel which reminds us that heaven is ours. Help us take this to heart. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING PRAISE

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Lord, I lift your name on high.
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life.
I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way.
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky—
Lord, I lift your name on high.

Lord, I lift your name on high.
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life.
I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way.
From the earth to the cross
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From the grave to the sky—
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From the grave to the sky—
Lord, I lift your name on high.

INVOCATION

Minister: Christ is risen!

Congregation: He is risen indeed!

M: In the name of God the Father who raised his Son from the dead.

C: Alleluia!

M: In the name of God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who rose triumphant from the grave and has conquered sin and death for us.

C: Alleluia!

M: In the name of God the Holy Spirit who has brought us to believe and to share in Christ's victory.

C: Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Lord God, I humbly come before you. I confess that I am sinful in thought, word, and deed. I daily fail to do what you command, and I have done what you forbid. Lord, I am sorry for my sins. I believe that for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ, you will have mercy on me. I pray that you would strengthen me by your Holy Spirit, so that all I do may give you glory.

ABSOLUTION

M: By Christ's command and with his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit. The vacant cross and the empty grave are God's signs to you that he has accepted the sacrifice of his one and only Son. Jesus was delivered over to death because of our offenses and was raised to life to prove to us that our sins are forgiven! Whoever believes this simple truth of Scripture has eternal life.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

1 Peter 1:17-21

Peter reminds us that we were bought with the blood of Christ. One day, we will join our Savior in our heavenly home. Until that day, we live in this world as strangers who are focused on going home.

¹⁷If you call on the Father who judges impartially, according to the work of each person, conduct yourselves during the time of your pilgrimage in reverence, ¹⁸because you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that pass away, such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was chosen before the foundation of the world but revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹Through him you are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.



Listen to this resurrection gospel of Jesus appearing to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

¹³Now, on that same day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” Saddened, they stopped.

¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹“What things?” he asked them.

They replied, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death. And they crucified him. ²¹But we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel. Not only that, but besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Also some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning. ²³When they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb. They found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”

²⁵He said to them, “How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸As they approached the village where they were going, he acted as if he were going to travel farther. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, since it is almost evening, and the day is almost over.”

So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he reclined at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and began giving it to them. ³¹Suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us?” ³³They got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those who were with them assembled together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord really has been raised! He has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵They themselves described what had happened along the road, and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer?
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine!"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken.
For by my side, the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.
The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated,
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free!"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day, I know He will renew me,
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,
All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat,
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me!"
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat,
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me!"
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me!"

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them:

³⁶“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

³⁷Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Gentlemen, brothers, what should we do?”

³⁸Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰He testified solemnly with many other words and was appealing to them, saying, “Escape from this crooked generation.”

⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added.

⁴²They continued to hold firmly to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. ⁴³Awe came over every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common.

⁴⁵They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed.

⁴⁶Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Witness with Your Hands

As You Hold Firmly to Jesus
As You Share Generously with Others

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

OFFERINGS

The members of this congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Please recognize that it is vital for the continued ministry we carry out together to continue to support our ministry with regular giving, even while we worship together in our homes. *Please see our Love Notes for more information on ways to give your offerings.*

SONG OF PRAISE

Jesus

There is a truth older than the ages.
There is a promise of things yet to come.
There is one, born for our salvation.
JESUS.

There is a light that overwhelms the darkness.
There is a kingdom that forever reigns.
There is freedom from the chains that bind us.
JESUS, JESUS.

Who walks on the waters,
Who speaks to the sea,
Who stands in the fire beside me.
He roars like a lion,
He bled as the lamb,
He carries my healing in his hands.
JESUS.

There is a name I call in times of trouble.
There is a song that comforts in the night.
There is a voice that calms the storm that rages.
He is *JESUS, JESUS.*

Who walks on the waters,
Who speaks to the sea,
Who stands in the fire beside me.
He roars like a lion,
He bled as the lamb,
He carries my healing in his hands.
JESUS.

Messiah, my Savior,
There is power in Your name!
You're my rock and my redeemer.
There is power in Your name,
In Your name.

God, you walk on the waters,
You speak to the sea,
You stand in the fire beside me.
You roar like a lion,
You bled as the lamb,
You carry my healing in Your hands.

God, you walk on the waters,
You speak to the sea,
You stand in the fire beside me.
You roar like a lion,
You bled as the lamb,
You carry my healing in Your hands.

JESUS.

There is no one like you,

JESUS.

There is no one like you.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory.

C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

M: Lord, teach us to pray, even as you taught your first disciples to pray:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Birdsong

Worshippers are invited to listen to the soloist

Lord, let my voice join the birdsong.
I want my praise to linger all day long.
If you can make the rocks cry out and sing your name,
Will you take my harmony and do the same?

In the woods I find a solace.
Here you build for us a fortress.
The forest fills with your praise.
Our spirits soar our hearts we raise.

When the sunlight's breaking,
And my soul is waking,
I give my offering.
Forever I will sing,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Each tree is a monument to you, oh Lord.
You made them from nothing simply with Your Word.
If You can take a simple seed and grow a tree.
You can make a song of worship grow in me.

In the woods I find a solace.
Here you build for us a fortress.
The forest fills with your praise.
Our spirits soar our hearts we raise.

When the sunlight's breaking,
And my soul is waking,
I give my offering.
Forever I will sing,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Dave Backus
Scripture Reader: Randy Pelischek

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

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Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

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Jesus

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Birdsong

Performed by **Lydia Witthuhn** (vocal, guitar). Words and music by Joel Hansen and Bethany Wichman © 2008 Camp Phillip.

Holy Bible

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