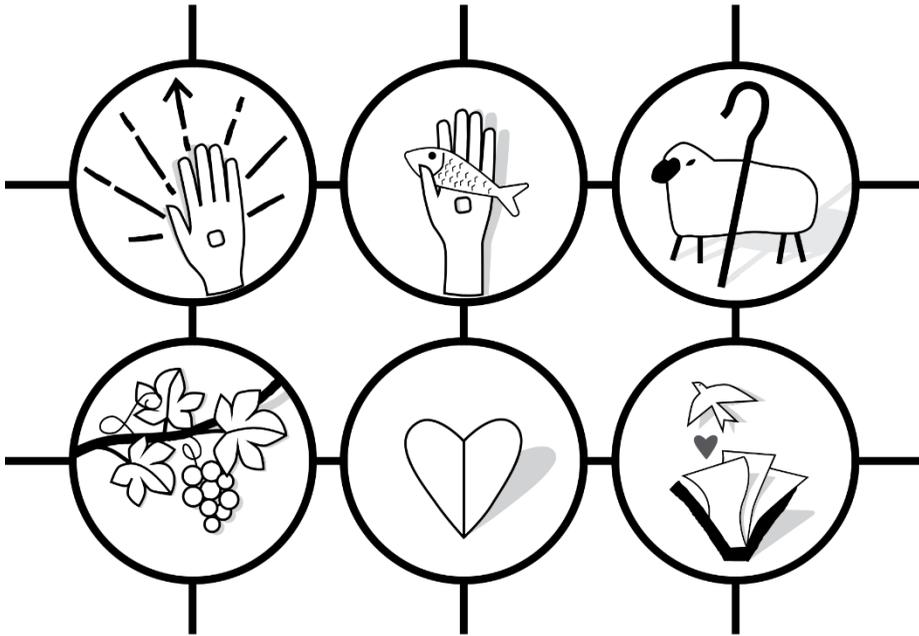




Third Sunday of Easter
“Connected to the Scriptures”

April 18, 2021

CONNECTED



ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's love for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

- Restrooms are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.
- If you have young children with you today, great! We encourage families to worship together. We do have a nursery area available just outside the chapel near the bathrooms, should you feel the need to step out of worship with your child for a moment. Activity sheets and bags for your child are available from the ushers as well.

WORSHIP SERIES: CONNECTED

This Easter season, we will look back on the words of Jesus from the Easter Gospel lessons. Through the Holy Spirit, we can study the scriptures together and see the heart of God and his plans for us. We are safe in Christ's flock. He is the Good Shepherd, and we love to gather to listen to his voice. Jesus urges us to stay connected to vine where we will produce fruits of faith. Jesus is more than just our God or our Savior, he is our friend. He connects us to himself and each other with his love. Even though we don't see him anymore, we are still connected with Christ. Connected and protected by his power and his word. We pray that this worship series will help us stay connected to Christ through regular use of the word and sacraments. We'll see all kinds of blessings as we experience the connecting power of our risen Savior.

TODAY'S FOCUS: Our Easter Connection today hinges on the Word of God. The thrust of our worship today is simple: We Have Fellowship with God because of the incarnate Word of God and through the inspired Word of God.

OUR HOLY COMMUNION PRACTICE

Eternal Love Lutheran Church views the Lord's Supper as a powerful disbursement of Jesus' grace. We receive it with joy and treat it with respect. Communing together signifies a oneness in faith, life, and worship. So we ask you to judge us; discover what we believe and determine if you wish to be one with us. If you are interested in taking communion in the future and are not a member of Eternal Love or of another congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, please speak to one of our pastors.

OPENING HYMN

Speak, O Lord

Christian Worship Supplement #735



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you To re -
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, Ho - ly
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us



ceive the food of your Ho - ly Word.
rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty.
grasp the heights of your plans for us.



Take your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and
Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes In the
Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, That will



fash - ion us in your like - ness That the
ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our
e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by



light of Christ might be seen to - day In our acts of
faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your ma - jes - tic
grace we'll stand on your pro - mis - es, And by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, as your



fill in us All your pur - pos - es for your
nev - er fail, Let their truth pre - vail o - ver
Church is built And you fill the earth with your



glo - ry.
un - be - lief.
glo - ry.

STAND

GATHERING RITE

Based on today's Scripture lessons and CW #340

Minister: After healing a crippled beggar at the temple gate, Peter and John were questioned about how it happened. Peter said, "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that this man was healed. There is no other name under heaven, given to men, by which we must be saved." So in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified for the sin of the world, and who rose on the third day, we have gathered to worship, and to his name be all glory and praise.

Congregation Sings: *(Tune: Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing" CW #340)*

The name of Jesus calms our fears

And bids our sorrows cease.

'Tis music in the sinner's ears;

'Tis life and health and peace.

BE SEATED

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: In one of his appearances to the disciples after his resurrection, Jesus told them, “Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in my name to all nations.” Therefore, in accord with Jesus’ command, I call you to repent of your sins, confessing them before God and seeking mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

C: Lord, I repent that I have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. But for the sake of Jesus Christ, I plead for your mercy and forgiveness. Take away my sin, and help me to sin no more.

Congregation Sings:

**See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His life was once an off’ring made
That you might live again.**

ABSOLUTION

M: If anyone sins, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and for the sins of the whole world. In the name of Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all your sins. Peace be with you.

Congregation Sings:

**He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin;
He sets the pris’ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.**

M: Now go and sin no more. Share the faith and hope you have with all people. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Let all doubts be gone. Let us boldly and confidently confess the true faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

THE NICENE CREED

M: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

C: Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

M: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

C: God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

M: Through him all things were made.

C: For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

M: For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

C: He suffered death and was buried.

M: On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

C: He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

M: He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

C: And his kingdom will have no end.

M: We believe in the Holy Spirit,

C: The Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

M: who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

C: who has spoken through the prophets.

M: We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

C: We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

M: We look for the resurrection of the dead,

C: And the life of the world to come. Amen

Congregation Sings:

**Glory to God and praise and love
Be ever, ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ + be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: *Let us pray.*

Heavenly Father, because there is so much uncertainty in life, we are grateful for the totally reliable testimony that Easter gives. Overcome our fears and doubts with the testimony of the empty tomb, and give our faith and hope a solid foundation for this life and for the eternal life that will surely be ours through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 4:8-12

The greatest miracle of the Word is that it creates faith in the message that salvation is by faith in the crucified and risen Christ.

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, ⁹if we are being questioned today for a kind act that was done for the lame man, as to how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead! By him this man stands before you healed. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone.

¹²“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”

STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:36-49

From Easter Sunday until the Ascension, Jesus keeps emphasizing the necessity of the Word. Since he will soon no longer be visibly with them, he reminds them that the closer they are to the Word, the closer they will be to him.

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷ But they were terrified and frightened and thought they were looking at a ghost.

³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While they still did not believe it (because of their joy), and while they were still wondering, he said to them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”

⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. ⁴³ He took it and ate in front of them. ⁴⁴ He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

BE SEATED

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Young children may come forward for a brief devotion.



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found.
 2 In Christ a - lone— who took on flesh,
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay,
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,



He is my light, my strength, my song;
 Full - ness of God in help - less babe.
 Light of the world by dark - ness slain;
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me;



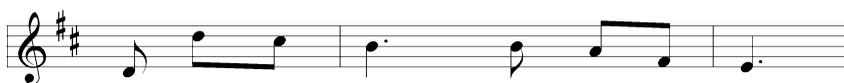
This cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground,
 This gift of love and right - eous - ness,
 Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day
 From life's first cry to fi - nal breath,



Firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
 Scorned by the ones he came to save.
 Up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 Je - sus com - mands my des - tin - y.



What heights of love, what depths of peace,
 Till on that cross, as Je - sus died,
 And as he stands in vic - tor - y,
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man



When fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease!
 The wrath of God was sat - is - fied;
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
 Can ev - er pluck me from his hand;

My Com - for - ter, my all in all,
 For ev - 'ry sin on him was laid.
 For I am his and he is mine—
 Till he re - turns or calls me home,

(Fine)

Here in the love of Christ I stand.
 Here in the death of Christ I live.
 Bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

SERMON

1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have touched regarding the Word of Life —
² the life appeared, and we have seen it. We testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³We are proclaiming what we have seen and heard also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write these things to you so that our joy may be complete.

We Have Fellowship with God!

- Because of the incarnate Word
- Through the inspired word

OFFERING

Those who wish to give an offering today may place it in the offering plates near the door when exiting the chapel after worship.

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. However, we do ask that everyone take part in completing the connection card. Whether you are worshipping in person or watching online, please fill it out now or later at www.eternal-love.org/onlineworship or scan the provided QR code to do so now.



OFFERING SONG

Every Promise of Your Word

by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus Christ, our resurrected and ever-living Lord: We praise you for defeating all doubts we may have ever had about life or death by appearing to many people after your resurrection.

C: Praise and thanks to you for freeing us from the grip of hopelessness and death by your Easter morning triumph.

M: Today we gratefully stand before the empty tomb, acclaiming you as our mighty God, our merciful Savior, our Champion of love and life.

C: Grant us unwavering faith to believe that because you live, we also shall live eternally.

M: By the power of your resurrection victory, comfort us at the passing of our loved ones, strengthen us in the hour of our own death, and transform us into bold and determined witnesses of your death and resurrection.

C: Renew in us the joy, the hope, and the certainty of the Easter triumph.

M: Guide the leaders of our country and give them wisdom to seek and follow your will. Grant our elected officials integrity and moral strength, a sense of fairness, and a desire for peace.

C: Work through us to bring righteousness and goodness to our nation and world.

M: God of life and healing, through Peter and John you healed the crippled man at the temple. Through doctors, nurses, medical workers, therapies, and medications, heal our loved ones and friends who are sick.

C: Show mercy, O Lord, and keep them close to you.

M: Into your hands, gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, who enables us to pray as your dearly loved children.

C: Amen.

STAND

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

8:00 AM—BE SEATED

THE SACRAMENT

Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We ask that only members partake of the Sacrament. If you are not a member of Eternal Love or of another congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and are interested in communing with us in the future, please speak to one of our pastors.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

10:45 AM—BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

Christian Worship Supplement #720



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong
 2 No son of man could con - quer
 3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came
 4 It was a strange and dread - ful



bands For our of - fens - es giv -
 death, Such ru - in sin had wrought
 down, His peo - ple to de - liv -
 strife When life and death con - tend -



en; But now at God's right hand he
 us. No in - no - cence was found on
 er; De - stroy - ing sin, he took the
 ed. The vic - to - ry re - mained with



stands And brings us life from heav -
 earth, And there - fore death had brought
 crown From death's pale brow for - ev -
 life; The reign of death was end -



en. There - fore let us joy - ful be
 us In - to bond - age from of old
 er. Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns;
 ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly says



And sing to God right thank - ful -
 And ev - er grew more strong and
 An emp - ty form a - lone re -
 That death is swal - lowed up by



ly Loud songs of al - le - lu -
 bold And held us as its cap -
 mains; Its sting is lost for - ev -
 death. Its sting is lost for - ev -



ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tive. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 er. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 er. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
 Whom God so freely gave us;
 He died on the accursed tree—
 So strong his love—to save us.
 See, his blood now marks our door;
 Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
 And Satan cannot harm us.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 So let us keep the festival
 To which the Lord invites us;
 Christ is himself the joy of all,
 The sun that warms and lights us.
 Now his grace to us imparts
 Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
 The night of sin is ended.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

STAND

THANKSGIVING

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Dear children of God, your Savior has risen, and everything that was written has been fulfilled. Now let repentance and forgiveness of sins be proclaimed in his name to all nations. Peace be with you.

C: I know that my Redeemer lives! Amen.

BE SEATED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgist: Pastor Dave Backus
Preacher: Pastor Dave Pries
Scripture Reader: Bruce Heckmann
Accompanist: Ben Rusch

Speak, O Lord

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In Christ Alone

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Holy Bible

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