**3rd Sunday of Easter- April 14, 2024**

**zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to worship on this Third Sunday of Easter, April 14, 2024. Some lovely warm and sunny weather this week, a reminder that spring is here!

Gwen continues to improve, I was to see her Friday.

Any other announcements?

**GATHERING SONG*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* (ELW 377)**

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain
Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 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

**GREETING (ELW p. 138)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 138)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)**

Let us pray.

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19**

A reading from Acts.

*After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God’s promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ’s death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus’ name.*

12[Peter] 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?13The 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. 14But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, 15and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16And 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.
 17“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. 19Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 4**

 1Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
  you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
 2**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;**
  **how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**
 3Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful;
  the Lord will hear me when I call.
 4**Tremble, then, and do not sin;**
  **speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**
 5Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.
 6**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”**
  **Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.**
 7You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.
 8**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;**
  **for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.**

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7**

A reading from 1 John.

*God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.*

1See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.
 4Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. 7Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)**

**GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

36bJesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 37They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39Look 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.” 40And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43and he took it and ate in their presence.
 44Then 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.” 45Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 143)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*As We Gather at Your Table* (ELW 522)**

1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.

2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

**CREED (ELW p. 104)**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;** **he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty and wrap your loving arms around all in need of your loving and healing care *especially* Vivian, Chris, Elizabeth, Zoli, Felix, Jill, Doug, Teresa, Lyla, Christine, Sarah, Gwen, Oakland, our members in long term care, Bea, Evelyn and Rob and those we name either out loud or in the silence of our hearts*.*.. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose of our ministry. Move us to love our neighbours as ourselves and to share and serve as members of God’s beloved creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember all who have gone before us. Let us remember them with love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 143)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 885)**

**OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 144)**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 144)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 144)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death,

and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r and might,** **heaven and earth are full of your glory.** **Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.** **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.** **Hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,

for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial** **and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,** **and the glory are yours,** **now and forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God’s table.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG – Lamb of God (ELW p. 146)**

**COMMUNION SONGS- 461, 391**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done* (ELW 366)**

1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;
now is the victor's triumph won!
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Jesus their legions has dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

3 The three sad days have quickly sped,
Christ rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen head! Alleluia!
4 Christ closed the yawning gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high portals fell. Let hymns of praise his triumph tell. Alleluia!

5 Lord, by the stripes that wounded you ,from death's sting free your servants too,
that we may live and sing to you. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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