

+ THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER +

April 25-26, 2020

PRELUGE

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Almighty God,

C: In raising Jesus from the tomb, you destroyed the power of sin and death. Hear us as we confess our failure to live the good news of the resurrection. Grant us the radiant power of your grace. Forgive us, heal us, and renew us, so that we may know the joy of life abundantly given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

P: People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power. Through the waters of baptism we have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that our sins are forgiven in +Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in us now and forever.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“The Day of Resurrection!”

R361

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Unison*

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

I will call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

¹²How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵**Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. ²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know

the things that have taken place there in these days?”¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.”

²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

R618

APOSTLE'S CREED

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 power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;

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

He will come again 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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

P: Hear our cry, O God.

C: Listen to our prayer.

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 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.

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Christ is Risen! Alleluia!”

R382**DISMISSAL**

P: Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Larry Nelson, Marge Weber, Vicki Piontkowski, Michele Amelotte, Bethany Popour, Joanne Nicholls, Gordon Hansen, Deb Nitchman's Family, Kay Zinsli, Diane Prevost, Tammy Furze, Julie Troy, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Rob VanCleave, Donna Schafer, Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Kevin Reiser, Karlene Trump, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Bill Estlack, Nick Wittman, Barb Agius, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David's Dad), Edna Delano, Yvonne Stoll, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, Cody Gustin.

Prayer Concerns: We are still taking prayer concerns to be included in the weekly bulletin – now becoming weekly news and announcements and more. Please do have the persons permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than just our congregation will know about it.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED

With Governor Whitmer's order to Stay Home and Stay Safe, the church building is closed until May 10th. That is the building is closed but not the work of Grace Lutheran Church or the congregation of Grace. God's work goes on regardless of a building. The staff is now working from home as much as possible. We can now check the phone remotely for messages and will respond. Mail will be picked up daily and put in the office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have changed any contact information since our last church directory, say have a cell phone as your preferred or only contact, do let us know so we have the latest info in the church office.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS – CHRIST IN OUR HOME

If you did not have the chance to pick your copy of *Christ in Our Home* daily devotional booklet, please let us know. Call or email and we will get a copy out to you. And as many have done if you have shared them with family, friends and neighbors in the past, we will mail them one also.

DO YOU NEED A FACE MASK?

Several church members have been making some for the hospital and are willing to make some for church members. Please call the office and let us know if you would like one. We will get one to you.

GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Due to the difficulty in obtaining information necessary to complete the scholarship application, the committee has extended the deadline to June 1, 2020. Completed applications may still be emailed or mailed to the church office.

PEOPLE ARE WATCHING

Our online worship: March 29 - 145 views, Palm/Passion April 5 - 174 views, Easter April 12 - 190 views. And those are just hits on it. So likely multiple people for each hit. And in many places, including Maine, as David Delano's mother watches and shares it with cousins. Keep spreading the word. Because it is GOD'S WORD and it needs to be out there. The world so needs to know of God's love and grace and peace and justice and strength right now. *THANKS*

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Thunder Bay Therapy and Sports Medicine (Ashley Hanson) for their generous donation of food and personal care items to the Little Food Pantry. Your contribution allows us to continue making a Christ-like difference in our community. --Discipleship Committee

ONLINE WORSHIP RECORDINGS

From our website or Facebook page you can access a video that we have made of scripture, prayers, music and a meditation for the week. Please let others, family, friends and church members know about this.

PASTY FUNDRAISER DELIVERY UPDATE

Pasties ordered for the fundraiser will be distributed when the church reopens to our congregation. Watch upcoming bulletins for a future pick-up date.

FREERICE.COM

Freerice is an initiative of the World Food Programme (WFP). WFP is an international organization of the UN system. Freerice lets you play games and fight hunger at the same time. For every trivia question you answer correctly, WFP gets the cash equivalent of 10 grains of rice and puts the money to work where it's needed most - saving and changing lives around the world.

FREEKIBBLE.COM

Freekibble is an interactive site that asks visitors to answer a brief trivia question about animals. For every answer—right or wrong—the site donates pet food to shelter animals. Freekibble has fed nearly 15 million meals at shelters, rescues and food banks across the country.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Though the building is closed, mail is still dealt with daily. So offering envelopes can be sent in and they will be deposited.

SIMPLY GIVING

If you would like to set up a transfer from one of your bank accounts to Grace's, like automatic utility paying, give the office a call and Peggy will help set that up.

GIVE +

You can also go to our website and use the Give + link for a one time contribution or set up a recurring contribution through credit cards.

Thank you to one and all for your faithfulness in your stewardship toward God's work at Grace Lutheran.

GENERAL FUND GIVING

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|---|-------------|
| Average needed each week to meet budget | \$ 4,415.00 |
| Weekly giving - April 19 | 3,022.00 |

Thank you to all who have dropped off or mailed in envelopes and made donations online.

This week we received: 18 envelopes, 1 new Give+ payments made from our website

SOME WORDS OF STEWARDSHIP
from a letter by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Weeks may have passed since you last walked in the doors of your congregation and worshiped, face-to-face, with your community of faith. To be sure, being the body of Christ looks and feels differently than it ever has before.

Despite all of this, we are called to be church — together. The ministry of your local church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) looks different now, but it has not stopped. Nor have the needs of our communities and the world. Our church and its leaders continue to minister to its members, to those who are hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need.

The congregations and ministries of our church rely on your weekly offerings and gifts. Without in-person worship services for many weeks, the financial impact could be devastating.

Please continue to give to your congregation and give regularly. Your congregation and its leaders continue to minister to your community of faith. This ministry relies on your weekly offerings. Find out how you can continue your pledge or regular offering through online giving, automatic monthly giving or mail.

I know that, for many of us, this is a time of uncertainty and financial hardship. However, for those of you who are in a position to do more, the needs are great.

I have been reflecting on the words of Peter: “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” (1 Peter 4:10). Now is a time when we need one another. Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God.

Be of good courage, dear church, and remember that Christ is with us now and always.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America