

3rd Sunday of Easter – April 18th, 2021

We gather around the word and sacrament. We are always together in spirit. May the following reflection help you through this time of uncertainty.

We begin with the Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

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

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

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 had made him walk? The 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. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And 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.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Psalms: 4

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

2 How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

3 But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

4 When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

5 Offer right sacrifices and put your trust in the LORD.

6 There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

7 You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

8 I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

See 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. Beloved, 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. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look 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.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Devotion

You are like no one else in this world—a living work of art created anew in Jesus Christ with special high-grade wiring! At Salvation, God claimed you for Himself and empowered you to live by the power of the Holy Spirit. This daily devotional celebrates your uniqueness—a worker approved by God. Today’s Scripture passage reveals that Christians are products of God’s craftsmanship! With the utmost skill, He creates each of us for good works, but our efforts and deeds are worthless unless performed in the Power of The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ.

God prepared our labors ahead of time. Once we become aware of them, we can complete our tasks successfully with no added sorrow by allowing Christ to accomplish them through us. In this way, we can walk in them.

When we received salvation, God completely replaced our old wiring! Now, we think and act differently as the Holy Spirit rewires our minds and hearts through reading, studying, and appropriating God’s Word (Romans 12:1-2). We depend on the Father as Jesus did when He lived on earth. We become living examples of God’s Workmanship!

Heavenly Father, I am thankful to be a product of Your Workmanship! Continue to show me how to live the transformed life You prepared for me before the foundation of the world. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray...Lord, when you came down to lift us up, you became human, that we might share in the divine, you died that we might rise to life immortal. Help us to live as those called to believe, serve and trust in you
Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Creator God, we pray for the world, where people hunger after justice, freedom and peace, but where people are hungry, homeless and destitute. In love and mercy, help us to feed and care for your lambs.
Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Lord God, we pray for your church that we, your followers and friends may be filled with the spirit of the living God, bursting with new life and enabled to feed the physical, emotional and spiritual hunger of people around us.
We pray for those who seek the vocation to which you are calling them, that they may find in you and those around them the guidance they need.
Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Holy Spirit, we pray for neighbors, friends and families, those ill in body and mind, anxious or afraid, depressed and despairing, those lonely, abused and grieving. We ask for your blessing for those giving pastoral love and care, that all may be strengthened in spirit, healed in their minds and hearts and feel your comfort and love surrounding them.
Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer.

Loving God, we pray for those who have died and are now enfolded in the love and peace of your kingdom.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light no darkness can quench. We commend to your everlasting care those who have died and those who mourn. We light a candle as a symbol of light and warmth, love and hope.

Christ is the King of Glory. Open our hearts to receive him in love and with joy. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet. Behold the risen Christ.

(At this time, I invite you to place the bread and wine in front of you.)

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.

(Eat the bread and drink the wine)

You have received the body and blood our Lord Jesus Christ in and with the bread and wine. Your sins are forgiven. Let this rest in your heart and give you peace. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word, and our hearts burn within us. Through this meal you have opened us to your presence. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

Dismissal

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Our prayers are for.... All prayers of concern for others are at the heart of our Christian love. Remember in prayer Bailey Ann Smith (ask Jerry and Kathy Mixdorf) / Hayden Schares (tests and treatments) / Penny Teisinger (tests and treatments) / Gerre Claney (at home) / Lisa Finley (ask Marie Hruska) / Don Meister (Jeff Volker dad) / Jennifer McFarland (multiple sclerosis) / Mary Ann Mixdorf (special care) / LuAnn Hansen (cancer treatment–Denise Pierce sister) / Kris Scarbrough (cancer treatment–Denise Pierce sister) / Kathy (Jerry) Mixdorf / Pam Waschkat / Judy Olson (at home) / Conrad Gallmeyer / Marie Hruska (health issues) / Larry Best (tests and treatment) / Sharon Kuhlmann (Sumner Nursing Home) / Pastor Jeff Blank. Thanks for all your prayers!

....for the lonely and grieving or discouraged or fearful. God bless all our grieving with eternal hope. Especially keep in your prayers the family of May Mixdorf who passed away this week and the family of Arnold Averhoff. God's blessings to both of these families. "To grieve is to pray."-Henri Nouwen.

....for the courageous, strong and joyful. Remember with thankful joy those recently baptized / persons in the military of our congregation – Sam Schrage, Charlie Magee, Josh Mixdorf, Aaron Morley, Andrew Gunder, Matthew Paidar and Daniel Rigdon (Kim Ala's nephew). We especially remember those who have given their lives for the nation. We pray for all who serve in public government that we live in a peaceful community. Remember emergency service personnel, those who give varieties of medical care, those who work in agriculture / for missionaries and fellow Christians in all circumstances around the world / church servants and all Christian people / teachers and students in Christian learning / persons who work in any education. Pray for our life together in this congregation and for the whole Church in time of transitions and testing.

If you know of someone needing to be added to our prayer list please contact the church at 291-6225 and leave a message...thanks!