



Second Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2021

The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

Hymn "Thine is the Glory" ELW 376

1 Thine is the glory,
 risen, conqu'ring Son;
 endless is the vict'ry
 thou o'er death hast won!
 Angels in bright raiment
 rolled the stone away,
 kept the folded grave-clothes
 where thy body lay.

Refrain

Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!

3 No more we doubt thee,
 glorious Prince of life;
 life is naught without thee;
 aid us in our strife;
 make us more than conqu'rors,
 through thy deathless love;
 bring us safe through Jordan
 to thy home above. *Refrain*

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through 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 4: 32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1John 1:1 – 2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 20: 19 - 31

The Holy Gospel according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily The Rev. Kurt Strause

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," and the response is "**Hear our prayer.**"

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as is 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.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace;

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Hymn "Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"

ELW 382

1 Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!
Gratefully our hearts adore him
as his light once more appears;
bowing down in joy before him,
rising up from griefs and tears.

Refrain

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!

4 Christ is risen! Henceforth never
death or hell shall us enthrall.
We are Christ's, in him forever
we have triumphed over all.
All the doubting and dejection
of our trembling hearts have ceased;
hail the day of resurrection!
Let us rise and keep the feast. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Take up your cross. Follow the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"

Robert Lau

Sanctuary Candle is presented in memory of Audrey Lewandowski by the congregation.



Michael A. Crowther
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Ella Shirk

Alverta Showalter
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Mary Jane Miller
Josie Reitz

Katie Houck
Sue Kittler
Katie Mera
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)
Mary Jane Miller
Janice Moyer Kelly
Josie Reitz
Family of Ralph Good
Family of Audrey Lewandowski
Jim Miller

Sharon Fremont – (friend of Sue Kreitz)
Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)
Hunter Leisey
Elmo Lorah
Jean Wolf
Ashton Faust
Clair Sweigart
Earl Myers
Joan Long
Family of Joel M. Smith
Family of Dale Sweigert



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.

Zoom Bible Study Resumes in April

Pastor Strause will offer an online Bible study using the Zoom format starting Tuesday, April 13, meeting at 7:00 p.m. The focus for these sessions will be the great stories of the Old Testament; the Call of Abraham and Sarah, the Exodus and settlement in the Promised Land, the rise of monarchy and King David, and the voices of the Prophets as they call God's people to faith. More details will be on the website as well as a registration link for the class.