

## **Third Sunday of Easter** **April 18, 2021**

**Welcome** to worship at Swamp Lutheran Church. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. We believe “Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink.” (Small Catechism, Martin Luther) Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

The worship service is printed in its entirety in this bulletin. Please take the bulletin home with you after the worship service. Please observe the following guidelines for worship:

- Please enter and exit the sanctuary through the main door in the narthex.
- Sit in available pews maintaining six feet of distance from others. Family members who live in the same household may sit together.
- Wear a mask while inside the building at all times. Small children do not need to wear a mask.
- Greet one another verbally or with a wave; do not shake hands or hug.
- If you desire to receive Holy Communion please come forward at the indication of the usher. Maintain distance while in line. Receive the Communion bread from the pastor. Take a pre-filled cup of Communion wine from the assistant. Return to your seat through the over-flow room and down the side aisle.
- Offering plates will not be passed. You may place your offering in the box in the narthex or in the plate at the front of the church.
- Remain in your pew after the service until dismissed by the usher.

# GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Scout Sunday Recognition

Presentation of the Colors –“God Bless Our Native Land”

Presentation of the Charter for Cub Scout Pack 95

### PRELUDE “We Walk By Faith” Jacob B. Weber

*Congregational responses are printed in bold type.*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*Stand, as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

**Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.**

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

**At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.**

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above  
all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.**

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your  
forgiveness, grace, and love.

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

**Amen.**

## **GREETING**

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.**

## **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.**

## **GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED**

### **FIRST READING: ACTS 3: 12-19**

*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.*

<sup>12</sup>[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?"<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 4

*The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (Ps. 4:3)*

<sup>1</sup>Answer 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.

<sup>2</sup>**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;  
how long will you love illusions and seek | after lies?”**

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;  
the LORD will hear me when I call.

<sup>4</sup>**Tremble, then, and do not sin;  
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”  
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart,  
more than when grain and wine abound.

<sup>8</sup>**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 3:1 – 7**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: LUKE 24: 36b-48**

The holy Gospel according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.*

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" <sup>39</sup>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.”<sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.<sup>41</sup> While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”<sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish,<sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>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.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,<sup>46</sup> 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,<sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Kurt S. Strause**

**CREED**

We confess the faith of the church, the faith into which we were baptized:

**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**

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

## **CHRIST FEEDS US IN HIS HOLY SUPPER**

### **OFFERING**

*During this time, the table is set. The Offertory Hymn is sung by the Cantor.*

*“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”*

- 1 Christ has arisen, alleluia.  
Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.  
For our redeemer burst from the tomb,  
even from death, dispelling its gloom.

### *Refrain*

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!

- 5 Christ has arisen to set us free.  
Alleluia, to him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. *Refrain*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

It is indeed right to give you thanks and praise Holy Father, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.



Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD, INVITATION TO COMMUNION, AND PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS.**

When we eat this bread, we share the Body of Christ; when we drink this cup, we share the Blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as you once revealed yourself to your disciples.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*After all have communed, stand if you are able.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*Please be seated and wait for an usher to dismiss your row.*

**POSTLUDE** “This Joyful Eastertide”

Paul Bouman

**Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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The Rev. Kurt S. Strause, Interim Pastor 717-475-4377

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Brenda Johnston, Church Secretary – 717-336-2849

Sue Kreitz, Organist/Choir Director – 717-336-3272

Doug Kulp, Bell Choir Director – 717-336-7798

John Frantz, Sexton – 717-606-8994

Lori Gockley, Council President – 717-733-1095

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**Bread and Wine**

**Joan Long**

**Communion Assistants**

**Connie Taylor, Guy Templin and  
Deb Sweigert**

**Cantor**

**Lois Strause**

**Sanctuary Candle** given in memory of his aunt, Doreen Tobalski  
by Eric Long.

**TAKE NOTE** - Please contact Joyce Stoner 717-336-7077 if you  
would like flowers or the candle to be given in honor or in memory  
of someone. Altar flowers will start in May.

Michael A. Crowther  
Clarice Haws  
Betty Hornberger  
Charles Moyer  
Ella Shirk  
Alverta Showalter  
Clyde Showalter  
Mary Ann Weitzel  
Josie Reitz



Earl Myers  
Katie Houck  
Sharon Fremont – friend of Sue Kreitz  
Sue Kittler  
Shirley Achey – neighbor of Sue Kreitz



Joan Long  
Hunter Leisey  
Josie Reitz  
Mary Jane Miller

Tony Malafarina  
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)  
Ashton Faust  
Susan Levan

Janice Moyer Kelly  
Dorothy Good  
Clair Sweigart  
Pastor Jim Miller  
Family of Dale Sweigert  
John Frantz

Elmo Lorah  
Nancy Kulp  
Jean Wolf  
Katie Mera (daughter of Karen Klingensmith)  
Shirley Martzall (friend of Ranck family)  
Randy Krater

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 offers an online Bible study using the Zoom format on Tuesdays, meeting at 7:00 p.m. The focus for these sessions is 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.

**GERANIUMS** - Orders will be taken for potted geraniums in celebration of Pentacost in May. Deadline for orders is April 25. Prices are still unknown. Please contact Jodi Showalter at (717) 413-7149.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS** – Our distribution of food continues on an ongoing basis. We specifically are short of canned meat items – except tuna! We have plenty of tuna but could use corned beef, Spam, chicken, canned ham. Ketchup, mustard, relish and snacks are also in short supply. Watch the newsletter for a more comprehensive list. Thank you to the congregation for your continued support!

