

Third Sunday of Easter



April 23, 2023

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

PRELUDE

Now the Green Blade Rises

David Cherwien

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.
Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.



St. Matthew's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

12351 All Saints Place
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-494-3090
www.stmatthewsva.org

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

C: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.

Empower our witness to your resurrection.

Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.

P: Satisfy the world's need through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Christ,

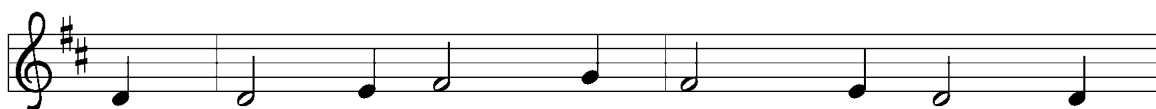
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN -Please stand

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

ELW 384



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

P: May 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.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:



1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

Verse 2 *Congregation or Congregation 2:*

2. Pow - er and rich-es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3 *Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

-Please share a sign of peace with those around you

-Please be seated

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

A reading from Acts, the second chapter...

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of Peter, the first chapter...

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - please stand

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John, the 20th chapter ...

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When 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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So 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."

A 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." Then 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But 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.

Holy Words, Holy Wisdom. Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kathy Lundgren

MESSAGE

Rev. Kirsten Laderach

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing
(Verses 1, 5-8)



- 1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
 3 An an - gel clad in white they see,
 4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;
Insert stanzas 5-8 if desired.
 9 On this most ho - ly day of days,



with heav'n - ly hosts to Christ our king:
 the faith - ful wom - en went their way
 who sits and speaks un - to the three,
 a - mong them came their mas - ter dear,
 be laud and ju - bi - lee and praise:



to - day the grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
 to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!
 "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!
 and said, "My peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!
 to God your hearts and voic - es raise. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza



- 5 When Thomas first the tidings heard,
 that they had seen the risen Lord,
 he doubted the disciples' word.
 Alleluia!
- 7 No longer Thomas then denied;
 he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 "You are my Lord and God!" he cried.
 Alleluia!
- 6 "My pierced side, O Thomas, see,
 and look upon my hands, my feet;
 not faithless, but believing be."
 Alleluia!
- 8 How blest are they who have not seen,
 and yet whose faith has constant been,
 for they eternal life shall win.
 Alleluia!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

-Please stand, sit, or kneel for the prayers

P: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

-A brief silence.

A: God of rebirth, the good news of your resurrection brings refreshment to a weary world. Following the women at the tomb, empower us to boldly share your radical love through our words and our work.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: As you breathed your Spirit into the disciples, breathe your spirit of healing upon all creation. Nourish the earth with sufficient rains. Strengthen us to counter the effects of pollution and destruction.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You prepared the disciples for their ministry by calming their fears and granting them your peace. Equip our communities' leaders. Give them a spirit of peace and hearts that burn for justice, that their leadership reflects your love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You come among us in unexpected ways. Send us to those who hide in fear or question your love. Be a healing presence for any isolated by addiction, incarceration, mental illness, chronic pain, sickness, or grief (especially). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: Resurrecting God, you bring us to new life every day. Thank you for blessing us with companions on our faith journey, especially those who now rest in your love. Strengthen us with the eternal peace of your promises. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING We give thanks to God by offering the gifts we have been given for the sake of the world. We invite you to place your donations in the plate as it is passed. Donations can also be made online at stmatthewsva.org/give. Your offerings go toward the mission of the church and allow us to respond to the needs of our congregation and community locally, nationally, and internationally.

OFFERTORY

Because He Lives
Senior Choir

Maher

OFFERING SONG -Please stand

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
to Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Gracious God,

C: in this meal you offer your very self.

We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.

In the breaking of this bread

reveal to us the Risen One.

In the pouring of this wine

pour us out in service to the world;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise

P: It is indeed our work and joy that at all times and places we offer thanks and praise to you O God, through Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of life renewed. And so, this morning we join with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven. We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

P: You are indeed holy, almighty, and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION


P: Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION

-Please be seated


All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you: The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and


Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 fear:
 peace:
 love.


Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:




mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain,
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

The Peace of the Lord

ELW 646



1 *La paz del Se - ñor, la paz del Se - ñor, la*
 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 3 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the



paz del Re - su - ci - ta - do: la paz del Se -
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the



ñor a ti ya mí, a to - dos al - can - za -
 Lord is for you and for me, and al - so for all of God's
 Lord is a - mong us right now, so o - pen your - selves to re -
 Lord kept with - in can - not live, so o - pen your - selves now to



rá; la paz del Se - ñor a ti ya
 chil - dren. The peace of the Lord is for you and for
 ceive it. The peace of the Lord is a - mong us right
 share it. The peace of the Lord kept with - in can - not



mí, a to - dos al - can - za - rá.
 me, and al - so for all of God's chil - dren.
 now, so o - pen your - selves to re - ceive it.
 live, so o - pen your - selves now to share it.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Gracious God,
 in you we live and move and have our being.
 With your word and this meal of grace,
 you have nourished our life together.
 Strengthen us to show your love
 and serve the world in Jesus' name.
Amen.

We Walk By Faith

ELW 635



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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BLESSING

P: The God of all,
 who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead,
 bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
 to live in the new creation.

Amen.**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.**POSTLUDE****Postlude: Christ is Arisen***J. S. Bach**

**During the postlude, you are invited to exit the sanctuary or sit and enjoy the musical offering.*

✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝ ✝

Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

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Tech Volunteers: Joyce Forbes, Chris Moessner, Tom Meier, Steve Payne

Lector: Peggy Heffernan

Ushers: Dave Carr

Church Council Members:

Gaye DeCesare – President

Keith Kuhn – Finance & Stewardship Chair

Gretchen Wilcox – Christian Education Chair

Dick Gullickson – Secretary, Fellowship Chair

Angela Allen – Evangelism Chair

Emily Hess – Day School Chair

Bruce Leiby – Vice President, Property Chair

Denise Riley – Worship & Music Chair

Mark Victorson – Social Ministry Chair

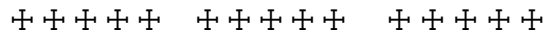
Darryl Lundgren – Treasurer

Pat Hartline – Financial Secretary

*The altar flowers for today are given by Kathy Meier,
In joyful thanksgiving and celebration of 25 years of marriage.*



*We welcome children of all ages to engage in worship with us.
If you find you need to step out, we have an unstaffed nursery located in the office hallway past the restrooms.
We ask parents to please remain with your children.*



For more announcements and upcoming events, please go to our website at www.stmatthewsva.org

Happening Today – Sunday School meets after the worship service—Children PreK through 5th Grade meet upstairs in the Blue Room; Confirmation Class, 6-8th Grades, meets upstairs in Rooms 9 and 10.

Ongoing – Community registration for St. Matthew's Day School for the 2023-24 school year has begun! See dayschool.us for more information and spread the word!

APRIL 27 – Fellowship Luncheon. 11:30AM. Enjoy lunch and fellowship at the Olive Garden. RSVP on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.

APRIL 28 – We are servicing lunch to clients of the Bill Mehr Drop-In Center for the Homeless each Friday through October. Sign up to contribute to the April 28th lunch on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.

APRIL 29 – Join us in reading through the complete Gospel of John! We'll start the reading at 10:00AM and break midway for soup and fellowship in the Narthex. The reading will likely wrap up at around 2:00PM. You're invited to sign up on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius to read one or more chapters and/or bring soup or bread to share.

MAY 6 – Property Work Day, 9-12 – Come help us get the church building and grounds ready for spring and summer. All are welcome! Sign up on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.

MAY 7 – Congregational Meeting, immediately following our worship service. We will be voting on the new fiscal year budget.

MAY 7 – ACTS First Sunday Collection – We're collecting pet food and supplies for the May 7th drive for ACTS. Contributions can be left in the Narthex.

MAY 21-27 – Hilda Barg Meal Service Week – We are providing meal service at Hilda Barg! Sign up to contribute on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.