

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

April 26, 2020

AS WE GATHER

Today we are surrounded by special sights—the liturgical colors in the sanctuary, the various hues in the clothing worn by those who have gathered for worship with us, and perhaps the special notes of beauty added by floral decorations in the church. We are blessed in what we see. And we are most blessed in seeing our Lord present in the Sacrament, hidden under the forms of bread and wine. The hiddenness of Jesus was experienced by two disciples on the road to Emmaus. But ultimately, their eyes were opened, and they beheld the risen Savior. In worship, we seek to see Him as He chooses to be known to us.

RINGING OF BELLS AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

OPENING HYMN “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

LSB 463

- 1 Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!
- 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!
- 3 Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!
- 4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6, adapted*

Pastor: Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: death no longer has dominion over Him.

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead. Alleluia!

People: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People: He has put all things under His feet. Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our creator and preserver, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are stained by sin from our very beginnings. We have sinned again and again in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves and have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for all of our many sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve

You in true faithfulness. Grant us victory over all that oppresses us, and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: In His boundless mercy, God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him for restoration and renewal. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, and grant you a life on earth in which you tell of His greatness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Gloria In Excelsis”

LSB 204

- 1 To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav’nly King.
- 2 To You, O sole-begotten, The Father’s Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow’r are seated At God’s right hand on high—
- 3 For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

PSALM *Psalm 116:1-14*

Pastor: I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

Women: *Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.*

Men: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”

Pastor: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

Women: *The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, He saved me.*

Pastor: Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

Men: For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

Pastor: I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

Women: *I believed, even when I spoke, “I am greatly afflicted”;*

Men: I said in my alarm, “All mankind are liars.”

ALL: What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING 1 Peter 1:17-25 *Peter reminds us that we are redeemed by the blood of Christ.*

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE

LSB 205

(sung) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL READING

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Luke 24 *The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord. (Story Bible p.409)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: *(sung)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN "Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing"

LSB 584

- 1 Faith and truth and life bestowing, Open now the Scriptures, Lord,
Seed to life eternal sowing, Scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, Your Word receiving, Like a barren field be found,
Choked with thorns and unbelieving, Shallow earth or stony ground.
- 2 May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing Bring to life the hidden grain,
Daily in our hearts increasing, Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story, Savior, may Your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold Your glory Give us ears to hear Your Word.

Text: © 1997 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005609

SERMON "Understanding the Bible," by Pastor Kruse, based on Luke 24:27,32

ANNOUNCEMENTS/OFFERING

CREEDAL HYMN "In God We Believe"

- 1 In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.
- 2 In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross He endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.

- 3 God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess;
With power and truth the Church now He does bless.
As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever. Amen.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar. Copyright © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
[Permission is granted to reproduce this text for use until May 31, 2020.]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: You have heard our pleas for mercy, O Lord, and given up Your Son to be our Savior. Hear us now as we come to You on behalf of ourselves and all people according to their needs.

Brief silence.

Our hearts have burned in us, O Lord, as Your Word has been read and preached. Keep our faith from growing cold and grant us grace, that we may not waver in faith or succumb to temptation. Give to us and to our children receptive hearts, that we may hear and, hearing, believe and, believing, be steadfast in this faith and hope all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: You have cleansed us, O Lord, with water and the Word in Baptism, and You have marked us as Your own people. Give to us grace, that we may live out this faith in holy lives, lifting up Your name in word and works for as long as we live. Guide us, that we may purify our souls by living in obedience to Your Word and in brotherly love for one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for ourselves in this season of our Lord's great victory, that we truly be Easter people all year long, radiating the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially for those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including doctors, nurses, grocery store workers, police, fire, and emergency personnel. Lord in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer and grant us Your peace.**

(Special petitions are offered. After each special petition, the pastor says, "Lord, in Your mercy," to which the congregation responds with, "hear our prayer.")

Pastor: Deliver us from all our afflictions, and grant us strength to bear all our burdens, O Lord. Hear us *in particular for...*, and those whom we name in our hearts. According to Your gracious will, heal the sick, relieve those who suffer, comfort the grieving, and give peace to the dying. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, hear the petitions and prayers of your people and answer them in accordance with your good and gracious will.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

**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.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon with favor and give you peace. *(Numbers 6:24–26)*

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

LSB 477

- 1 Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav’n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim For the world’s salvation bled—
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.
- 2 Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient pow’rs of evil In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world’s Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.
- 3 Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

Text (sts. 1, 3): Public domain Text (st. 2): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005609

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – APRIL 26, 2020
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC “Come and Listen”

WELCOME

INVOCATION

OPENING SONG “Song of Hope”

CONFESSION

WORD OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF PRAISE “Great Are You Lord”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WORD OF GOD

1 Peter 1:17-25

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CREEDAL SONG “We Believe”

PRAYERS

LORD’S PRAYER

WORD OF GOD

Luke 24 (*Story Bible p.409*)

SERMON “Understanding the Bible,” by Pastor Kruse, based on Luke 24:27,32

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG “Blessing”

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you or a member will be hospitalized, please let the Pastors know. Due to HIPAA Laws we are unable to receive information from hospitals.

Hospice: *Bernice Moecker; Joyce Grisar (sister of Jan Parker); Franklin Klug*

Strength and Healing: *Carol Babicky; Tom Butz (father of Carl Butz); Donald DeBroux; Glenn Dohrmann; Rolland Kegley; Paul Klotka (son of Randy & Lois Klotka); Dorothy Lucht; Phil Monson; Nancy (friend of Hannah Johnson); Jean Rogahn; Nancy Senn; Lori Stauske; Darlene Sukowski*

Long-term Illness/Treatment: *Baby Gage and Barrett (neighbors of Connie and Marv Borchardt); Beth Bichanich (cousin of Linda Alexander); Marco Bichanich (uncle of Linda Alexander); Charlene Castle (sister of Jody Reiter); Mitch Dickison (son-in-law of Mark & Karen Brueggemann); Michelle Guddeck; Donna Gunderson (sister of Pam Beverung and Dennis Eernisse); Holden Luckjohn; Larry Luckjohn; Linda Luckjohn; Eli Luckjohn; Tim Mentzel; Tim Nennig; Tom Reinsch (friend of Dave and Leslie Scherzer); Danielle Schaal (great-niece of Dottie Andrews); Donna Schmidt (relative of David & Doris Schmidt); Terry Sindic (cousin of Dave Scherzer);*

Marilyn Worthing (sister of Diane Kuczynski); Betty Wyatt (mother of Kim Edgar); Walt Zautcke (brother-in-law of Keith & Gail Goetter); Debbie Ziemann (daughter-in-law of Gordon & Mary Ann Ziemann); Jenny Zorowski (daughter of Steve and Kathy Mierow); Friends of the Pegelow family

Death: For the family and friends of *Jim Wyatt* (father of Kim Edgar) who went to be with Jesus on Friday, April 17, 2020.

For the family and friends of *Darwin Cone* (father of Christine Gyurisics) who went to be with Jesus last week.

For the family and friends of *Doris Musfeldt* who went to be with Jesus on Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

Please Note: If you would like to add a prayer to the list, the deadline to call the office with these requests is Tuesdays at 1pm. Any requests received after 1pm will be announced during church. If you have a Prayer Request listed above, please notify the church office at (262.377.4659 x332) or at prayers@splgrifton.org with any updates. At the end of each month, any requests that we do not receive an update on is removed. **Deadline: Tuesday, April 28.**

Memorial

A Memorial has been given to the glory of God to St. Paul School in memory of *Marie Wegner* by Tom and Kathy Lubner.

CHURCH RECORDS

Death *Doris Musfeldt*, born August 12, 1932, went to be with Jesus on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. Funeral arrangements pending.

PASTOR WENDORF'S DEVOTION

*He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" LSB 461 St. 4*

Complaint

Here is a thought...How about declaring a day in April as: "A Day of Complaining!" Let us be honest, we have plenty to complain about. In Wisconsin, the weather in April is usually a good source of complaint, or the shortage of our favorite foods, or being stuck in the house with the same people all the time, or not being able to golf, etc. We usually will say words like: "Stop Complaining" or "It could be worse." However, on this "Day of Complaining" there are to be no excuses as to why we do not complain. This stanza of the hymn is interesting: "He lives to hear my soul's complaint." Jesus is not blown away by our complaining and He loves us just the same. Complaining is a natural part of our lives then as we focus again on our Lord, we find the solace that we seek in His grace. Thank you Lord that You hear our complaints and love us just the same.

***You are welcome to contact Pastor Wendorf to share your thoughts regarding his weekly devotions.
pastor.wendorf@splgrifton.org***

WAYS TO GIVE AT ST. PAUL

Mail/Drop-Off: You can mail or drop-off your Offerings at St. Paul. Our address is: 701 Washington Street, Grafton, WI 53024. Our Office hours are Monday—Friday, 8am to 3pm

Automatic checking/savings withdrawal: Contact the Church Office at 262.377.4659

Visit SPLGrafton.org: Look for the Give Now! button on the right side of the webpage

Give+ Mobile App: GivePlus Church is a mobile giving app that enables you to make one-time or recurring gifts from your smartphone. Visit the Apple App Store or Google Play and search for “GivePlus Church” to download the app for free and start donating today! You can make donations using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.

Give+Text: You can now make a contribution with text! Simply send a text message to 855.927.0750 (the St. Paul Give+ Text number) with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25 for \$25). In a matter of seconds, you will be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and debit or card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email. For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text “repeat” to make it a recurring donation.

We thank you for supporting St. Paul Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, contact the St. Paul Finance Office at 262.377.4659.

All Services ONLINE at:
[facebook.com/SPLChurchGrafton](https://www.facebook.com/SPLChurchGrafton)
<https://vimeo.com/splchurch>