

**WELCOMING WORD** *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.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;

**C: you set me free when I was in distress;**

L: You have put gladness in my heart,

**C: more than when grain and wine abound.**

L: In peace, I will lie down and sleep;

**C: for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

**OPENING HYMN #328 All Hail the Power of Jesus Name** (vs. 1, 3, 5, 7)

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all

O seed of Israel's chosen race, now ransomed from the fall.

Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,

Go, spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

Go, spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng, we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**C: Amen.**

L: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

L: Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you. **Amen.**

**INVOCATION**

P: 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God,

**C: our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through 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 LESSON: Acts 3:12-19** <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.”

**SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:1-7** <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.

**GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48** <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.”

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**HYMN #132** *Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* (vs. 1, 4, 5)

Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought his Israel into joy from sadness;  
Loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke, Jacob’s sons and daughters,  
Led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

For today among the twelve Christ appeared, bestowing  
His deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.  
Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb’s dark portal  
Nor the watchers, nor the seal, hold him as a mortal.

Alleluia! Now we cry to our King immortal,  
Who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal.  
Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought his Israel into joy from sadness

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

**BENEVOLENCE PRESENTATION:** Divine Savior Lutheran in Cataño, Puerto Rico

**OFFERTORY 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.

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness (*especially*). Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**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. 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** *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.*

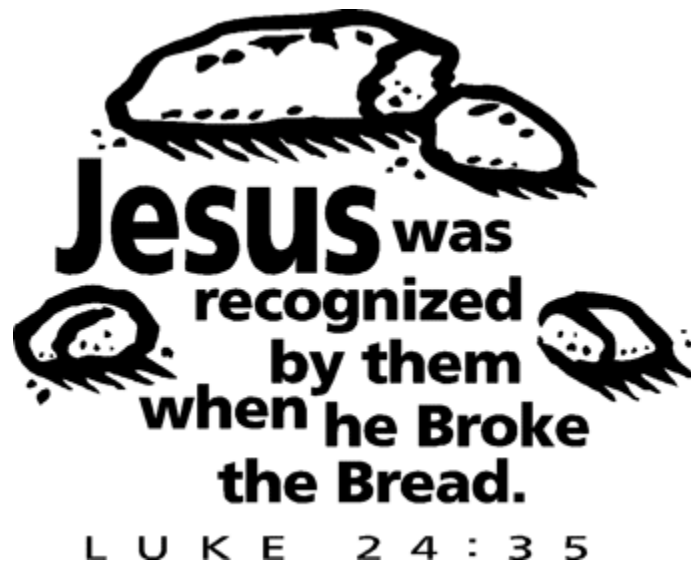
**CLOSING HYMN: #390 I Love to Tell the Story**

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story because I know it's true;  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else will do.

**REFRAIN** I love to tell the story; I'll sing this theme in glory and tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, how pleasant to repeat.  
What seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word. **REFRAIN**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. **REFRAIN**





Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Mary Krantz, Jeannie

U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother), Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl), Irene Bruflat, Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower), Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang

#### **Our sympathies to the families of:**

- **Laurie Duden** (Brenda Martin's aunt, Warren Wilson's sister) who passed away April 16<sup>th</sup>
- **Melba Tengesdal** (Intern Tamara Siburg's grandmother) who passed away April 16<sup>th</sup>

**Our partner congregation** IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **YOUTH WEEKLY CLASSES:**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** meets on Sundays at 9 am on ZOOM

**CONFIRMATION** meets on Wednesdays at 7 pm (Hybrid; In person & Virtual)

**FUSE NIGHTS (in person)** - 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group at ELC on **Tuesday, April 27th at 7 pm**. A great time to enjoy an Escape Room Game. Please wear a mask.

**PRE-CONFIRMATION (6th Graders)** - Wednesdays, **April 14th - May 12th, 3:45 - 4:45 PM** (5 sessions) at ELC. These gatherings are intended to enhance our Confirmation experience. Please wear a mask. Sign up by emailing Brenda.

### **2021 ELC SUMMER FUN (Save the dates)**

- **VBS/DAY CAMP 2021 - JULY 12 - 15th 9:30 - 11:30 am** (Youth ages 3 - 5th grade)  
**ONLINE SIGN UP LINK:** <https://forms.gle/3FCz1yfrYqQEcxph6> A time to be together outside in God's creation.
- **EXPLORER DAY AT SUGAR CREEK - July 26th, 9 am - 3 pm** (Children entering 1st - 5th grade in fall 2021) Email Brenda to sign up.
- **CONFIRMATION CAMP AT SUGAR CREEK - July 25 - 30th, (7th & 8th)** Register online at [www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org](http://www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org)
- **GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Service days) - New for 2021** - Middle - High school youth may join us on **Thursdays**, throughout the summer, to help in various local service opportunities. This provides us with helping our neighbors all summer, and allowing flexibility for our youths with their summer schedules. **REGISTER online:** (Link can be emailed as well)  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daea929a5ffc70-giveloveservice>

**STARLA'S SEASONINGS Youth Fundraiser for April 5th - May 2nd** Starla's seasoning blends are as unique as their names and are sure to complement any event. These seasonings are made in Wisconsin, made with the finest quality ingredients. **TO ORDER:** Complete the **SIGN UP LINK** below OR order at church after the worship services (April 11, 18, 25) **ONLINE SIGN UP LINK:** <https://forms.gle/y5voPtvH5LqjCRVYA> Funds raised will go towards our youth summer trips, the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2022 and a mission trip.



**SUGAR CREEK “BACK IN THE SADDLE”** Online Registrations are now available for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, [http://wp.sugarcreek bible camp.org](http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org), for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!



## **DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 18, 2021**

**SHARE:** What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**READ:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 150, Praise of God’s Greatness

Tuesday, 2 John 1-6, A New Commandment

Wednesday, Proverbs 9:1-6, Wisdom’s Feast

Thursday, Psalm 23, God the Shepherd

Friday, Acts 4:1-4, Peter and John Before the Council

Saturday, Mark 6:30-34, Feeding the 5000

**TALK: Consider some of these ideas:** *“Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” Luke 24:36b 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.*

- How often do you need that first greeting: “Peace be with you”?
- Jesus meets the disciples in a familiar scene – eating together. How often do you ask for Jesus’ presence as you gather? Do you recognize that presence?
- What does being a witness mean to you? What parallels do you see with courtroom witnesses?

**PRAY:** Almighty God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**BLESS:** May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.