

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

January 24, 2021
10:30 a.m. Sunday



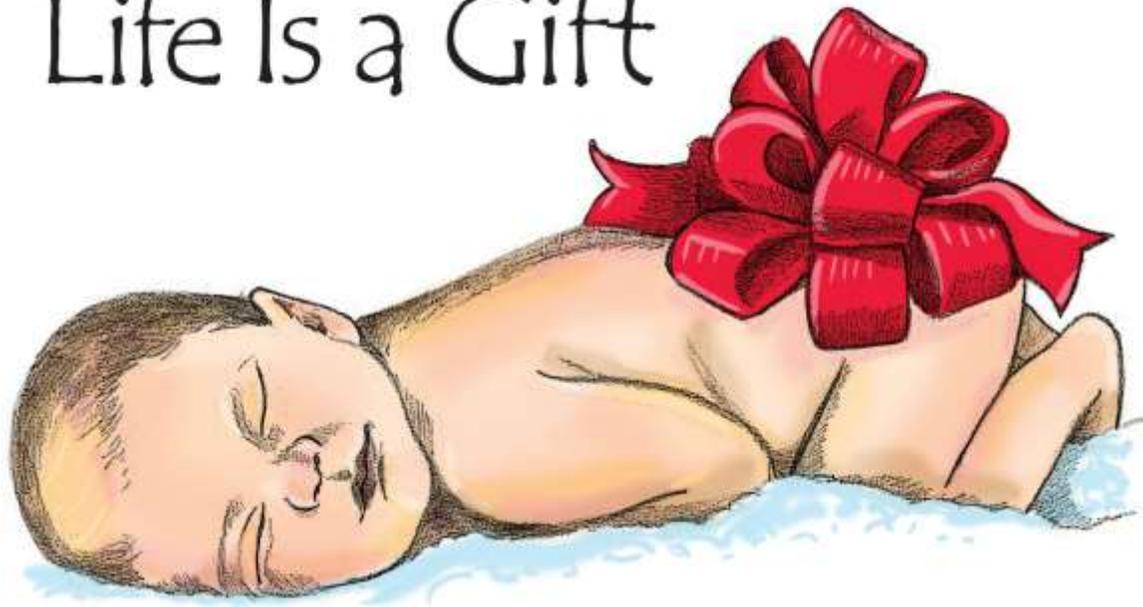
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY/SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

The God Who Opens Hearts

AS WE GATHER (*based on Ephesians 1:15-23*)

In the Third Article to the Apostles' Creed, about the work of the Holy Spirit, Luther explains, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or effort believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or [even] come to Him." Our total inability to have faith and trust in God without both the initial and ongoing work of the Holy Spirit to "open the eyes of our hearts" and keep them open is not only a gift of grace, but is also a mighty miracle that is wrought by God's raw Power. The power exerted in us is so great Paul says it's the same power God used to raise Jesus Christ from death and the grave. "That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead"! Awesome! That's Christ's own resurrection power at work in us! We have literally been raised from death to life when we believe and it takes nothing less than resurrection power to keep us in faith, knowing "the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance." Just as Christ was physically DEAD, so we were DEAD in sin and unbelief. Christ has raised us from the DEAD by "opening the eyes of our hearts."

Life Is a Gift



Gathering Song

“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen”
Verses 1-3

LSB 474



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.



Refrain

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Song

The Power of Your Love

Geoff Bullock

Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed renewed
Flowing from the grace That I found in You
And Lord I've come to know The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the pow'r of Your love

CHORUS: **Hold me close Let Your love surround me**
 Bring me near Draw me to Your side
 And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle
 And I will soar with You Your Spirit leads me on
 In the pow'r of Your love

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love As You live in me
Lord renew my mind As Your will unfolds in my life
In living ev'ry day
By the pow'r of Your love **CHORUS (x2)**

And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You Your Spirit leads me on
In the pow'r of Your love

Invocation

Confession

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: **Dear Lord, we confess that we grossly underestimate the amount of God's power at work in us when You bring us to faith and keep us in faith. In arrogance, we imagine we have somehow made a wise decision in trusting you. We foolishly think it is up to us to make a wise choice in continuing to trust in You. Forgive us for not giving You every ounce of credit! Open the eyes of our hearts, Lord! Enlighten us to know "the hope to which You have called us"! Help us to see that nothing less than Your resurrection power is at work in us -- bringing us to faith and keeping us in faith. Give us humility to give you all the credit not only for our salvation, but also for believing in our salvation. And forgive us ALL our sins, we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.**

Absolution

✂ WORD ✂

Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23

(God opens the "eyes of your hearts" to know "the hope to which He has called you.")

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the LORD Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our LORD Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that is can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

(Jesus invites His followers to become fishers of men.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to mark, the 1st Chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy...

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Offering *Offerings will be collected at the back, in the Narthex.*

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.



✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

People: **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.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**Knowing You**

Graham Kendrick

All I once held dear built my life upon All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss Spent and worthless now compared to this

**CHORUS: Knowing You Jesus knowing You There is no greater thing
You're my all You're the best You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You Lord**

Now my heart's desire is to know You more To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn All surpassing gift of righteousness

CHORUS

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death my Lord So with You to live and never die

CHORUS

...love you Lord

General Communion Blessing**Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)**

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 you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Closing Song**The Way**

Smith/Bashta/Barrett

Through every battle Through every heartbreak
Through every circumstance
I believe That You are my fortress Oh, You are my portion
And You are my hiding place, oh I believe You are

**CHORUS: The way, the truth, the life
I believe You are The way, the truth,
the life I believe (You are)**

Through every blessing Through every promise
Through every breath I take
I believe That You are Provider You are Protector
And You are the One I love, I believe you are **CHORUS**

It's a new horizon and I'm set on You
And You meet me here today with mercies that are new
All my fears and doubts, they can all come too
Because they can't stay long when I believe (You are) **CHORUS**

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(and Row by Row Dismissal)



Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
PRAISE TEAM

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Agape Praise Team