

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

April 23, 2023

10:30 a.m. Sunday



THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER

HEARTS CUT, BURNING, AND PURIFIED

AS WE GATHER

Today we see Jesus appear to His disciples on the road to Emmaus. They say afterward that their hearts burned within them as Jesus opened up to them the Scriptures. In the Reading from Acts, those gathered on Pentecost are cut to the heart by Peter's words. And in the Epistle, Peter speaks of purified souls and hearts. It seems our hearts are being greatly affected by Christ. They are cut, burning, and purified by the Word of Christ.

✂ PREPARATION ✂

Gathering Song

CELEBRATE JESUS

Gary Oliver

Celebrate Jesus celebrate
Celebrate Jesus celebrate
Celebrate Jesus celebrate
Celebrate Jesus celebrate

He is risen He is risen
And He lives forevermore
He is risen He is risen
Come on and celebrate
The resurrection of our Lord

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Pastoral Greeting

Opening Song

I Will Celebrate

Linda Duvall

Chorus

I will celebrate sing unto the Lord
I will sing to Him a new song
I will celebrate sing unto the Lord
I will sing to Him a new song
I will praise Him
I will sing to Him a new song. (Repeat)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. (Repeat)
I will praise Him
I will sing to Him a new song.
I will praise Him
I will sing to Him a new song.
I will sing to Him a new song.
Repeat Song, then (going up the scale):
...I will sing to Him a new song!



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Invocation

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
Pastor: God raised Jesus from the dead
People: **and gave Him honor and glory.**

Pastor: We place our faith in Him,
People: **and we place our hope in His resurrection.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 Peter 1:24–25*

Pastor: As human beings, we inherited futile ways and deeds. We were born in sin, and we daily sin much. Though we may try to do what is right, we always fall short, burdened by mistakes and the weight of sin. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to draw near, confess our sins, and long to hear His living and abiding Word.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,
People: **we have not been pure of heart and mind and soul. We have not obeyed Your truth. We have not loved one another as we should. Forgive us for our futility, renew us by Your resurrection, and lead us back to the lives You want for us, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: “The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” That Word of God tells us clearly that almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. We are purified because of the precious blood of Jesus.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

First Reading: Act 2:14a, 36-41
(The Word cuts people to the heart.)

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-25

(The Word of the Lord endures forever.)

Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For,

"All men are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of the Lord stands forever."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

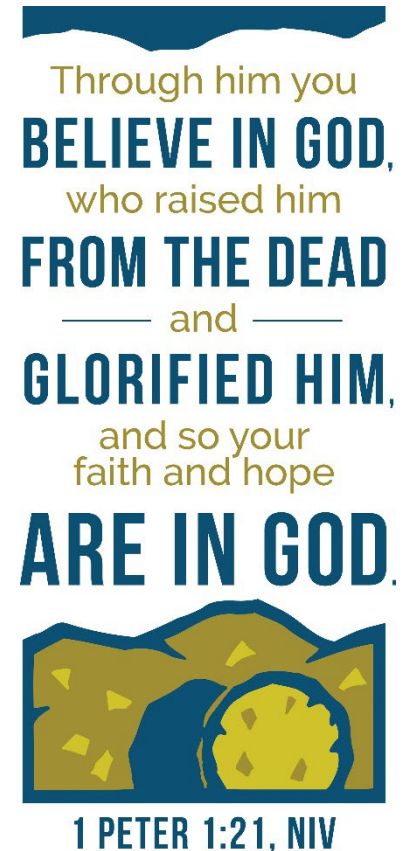
(Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus.)

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.



"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

Luke 24:27, NRSV



He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Christa Kirschner

Song of the Day GOD'S NOT DEAD (LIKE A LION)

DANIEL BASHTA

Let love explode and bring the dead to life

A love so bold to see a revolution somehow **REPEAT**

Now I'm lost in Your freedom
Oh this world I'll overcome

**CHORUS: My God's not dead He's surely alive
He's living on the inside roaring like a lion
God's not dead He's surely alive
He's living on the inside roaring like a lion,
Roaring, He's roaring, He's roaring like a lion**

Let hope arise and make the darkness hide
My faith is dead I need a resurrection somehow **REPEAT**

Now I'm lost in Your freedom
Oh this world I'll overcome **CHORUS**

Sermon "Life's Journey"

Pastor John Larson
Text: Luke 24:13-35

Nicene Creed

(found in the back of the hymnal)

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy ...

People: Hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!

Offering *(collected in the back)*



✘ 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 CHANT (Sung Responsively)

Our Father, **Our Father,**
Who art in heav'n **Who art in heav'n**
Hallowed be Thy name. **Hallowed be Thy name.**
Thy kingdom come, **Thy kingdom come,**
Thy will be done **Thy will be done**
on earth **on earth**
as it is in heaven. **as it is in heaven.**
Please give us **Please give us**
our daily bread. **our daily bread.**
And forgive us **And forgive us**
all our sin, **all our sin,**
as we forgive. **as we forgive.**
Those who sin against us. **Those who sin against us.**
And lead us not **And lead us not**
into temptation, **into temptation,**
But deliver us **But deliver us**
from the evil one **from the evil one.**
For the kingdom, **For the kingdom,**
pow'r, and glory are Yours, **pow'r, and glory are Yours,**
both now **both now**
and forevermore **and forevermore**
Amen. **Amen.**
Alleluia! **Alleluia!**
Amen. **Amen.**
Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Song

MORE THAN AMAZING

Brewster | Fieldes

You're the One who walked on water And You calmed the raging seas
You command the highest mountains To fall upon their knees
You're the One who welcomed sinners And You opened blinded eyes
You restored the broken-hearted And You brought the dead to life
Forgetting all our sins You remember all Your promises

**CHORUS: You are amazing More than amazing
Forever our God You're more than enough (You are amazing)**

INSTRUMENTAL

With authority You've spoken And You've set the captive free
You're the King who came to serve And You're the God who washed our feet
You're the One who took our burdens And You bled upon the cross
In Your kindness and Your mercy You became the way for us
Forgetting all our sins You remember all Your promises

**CHORUS: You are amazing More than amazing
Forever our God You're more than enough REPEAT**

BRIDGE: Oh how marvelous Oh how wonderful Oh how glorious You are amazing
Oh how marvelous Oh how wonderful Oh how glorious You are **(REPEAT)**

**CHORUS: You are amazing More than amazing
Forever our God You're more than enough**

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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

MY REDEEMER LIVES

Morgan

I know He rescued my soul
His blood has covered my sin
I believe, I believe.
My shame He's taken away
My pain is healed in His name I believe, I believe!
I'll raise a banner 'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave

**CHORUS: My Redeemer lives My Redeemer lives
My Redeemer lives My Redeemer lives**

I know He rescued my soul
His blood has covered my sin
I believe, I believe.
My shame He's taken away
My pain is healed in His name
I believe, I believe!

I'll raise a banner
'Cause my Lord has conquered the grave

CHORUS x2

You lift my burdens I'll rise with You
I'm dancing on this mountaintop
To see Your kingdom come

CHORUS x3

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**



OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP
ORGANIST
PRAISE BAND
ELDERS
LECTORS
COMMUNION SERVER
ALTAR GUILD

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder
Michael Zehnder
Agape
4 p.m. Jim Wert; 8 a.m. Arvin Michel; 10:30 a.m. Michael Lawrenz
4 p.m. Dick Castleman; 8 a.m. Jerry Peterson; 10:30 a.m. Margo Pasha
4:00 p.m. Dick Castleman; 10:30 a.m. Margo Pasha
Tanya Schmitt, Cathy Utecht, Charmaine Rohde

