

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TEMPLE CITY

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Website: <https://firstlutherantc.org>

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Easter People Rejoice

April 14, 2024



AS WE GATHER

Luke reports that at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples “disbelieved for joy” (24:41). The theme of rejoicing is woven throughout the Scriptures. The psalmist exhorts: “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!” (66:1–2). The prophet Isaiah assures God’s people that they will have cause for rejoicing as he writes: “For the LORD comforts Zion; . . . joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (51:3). Paul writes to people who know of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter day: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The season of Easter is a time for joyous praise that begins now!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen"

Hymnal Page 474, verses 1 to 4

1. Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2. Walking the way, Christ in the center
Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

3. Jesus the vine, We are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

4. Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent:
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 118:24; Romans 6:9; adapt. from
Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8*

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;
People: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

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.
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.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

People: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed 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 these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 16:11b*

Pastor: In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

People: **I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

Pastor: O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.

People: **O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

Pastor: Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name.

People: **For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. 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.**

Pastor: In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

KYRIE

Hymnal page 168

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN SEQUENCE

Pastor: The psalmist writes, "Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him" (98:1). The strains of Easter joy echo through all the services of the Easter season. Each Sunday is a "little Easter" for us to celebrate as together we sing of the victory of our God. We are amazed Easter people, and our amazement is best expressed in our songs of joy. One of the oldest hymns in our hymnbooks is "The Day of Resurrection," written by John of Damascus in the eighth century. Together we sing stanza 1 that celebrates "the passover of gladness."

HYMN "The Day of Resurrection" Hymnal page 478, verse 1

1. The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of gladness,
The passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From sin's dominion free.
Our Christ has brought us over
With hymns of victory.

Pastor: Paul writes: “When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ . . . But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:54, 57). The victory of Christ is the lasting source of joy that gives hope to the grieving and assurance to all the faithful. We rejoice as we sing the second stanza of “The Day of Resurrection.”

HYMN “The Day of Resurrection” Hymnal page 478, verse 2

2. Let hearts be purged of evil
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection light
And, list’ning to His accents,
May hear, so calm and plain,
His own “All hail!” and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

Pastor: John writes in the book of Revelation: “And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast . . . standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ‘Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!’” (Revelation 15:2–3). The celebration of the victory of Jesus, the Lamb of God slain for our salvation, goes on throughout eternity. We join in the joyful praise as we sing the third stanza of “The Day of Resurrection.”

HYMN “The Day of Resurrection” Hymnal page 478, verse 3

3. Now let the heav’ns be joyful,
Let earth its song begin,
Let all the world keep triumph
And all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,
Their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen,
Our joy that has no end!

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.**

FIRST READING

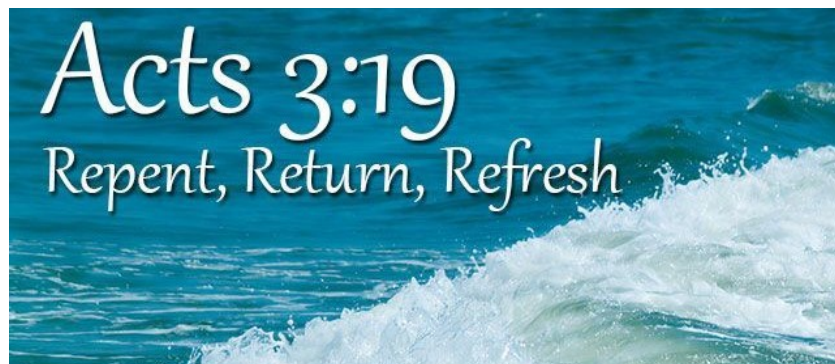
Acts 3:11–21

(Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.)

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹² And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM *Psalm 4*

(Answer me when I call)

- 4**¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
- ² O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?
- ³ But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for Himself;
The LORD hears when I call to Him.
- ⁴ Be angry, and do not sin;
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.
- ⁵ Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.
- ⁶ There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?
Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O LORD!"
- ⁷ You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.
- ⁸ In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety

EPISTLE *1 John 3:1–7*

(We are God's children now.)

3¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies Himself as He is pure. ⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as He is righteous.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN "O Sing to the Lord"

Hymnal Page 808, verses 1 to 3

1. O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song,
O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song,
O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.
O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

2. For God is the Lord! And God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord! And God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord! And God has done wonders.
O sing to our God, And sing to our God.

3. So dance for our God And blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God And blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God And blow all the trumpets.
And sing to our God, And sing to our God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:36–49*

(The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus Himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and He took it and ate before them. ⁴⁴ 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“We All Believe in One True God,”
Hymnal page 953, verses 1 and 2

1. We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need,
Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfolds,
All creation He upholds.

2. We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary's son,
Who descended from His throne
And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.

SERMON

CREED

Apostles' Creed

**People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the whole church, that the message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world and the forgiveness of sins be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the nations of the world, that governments would be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms may be hindered, bringing a sense of security and well-being in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for ourselves in this amazing season of our Lord's great victory that we may 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 those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel. Also, we remember at this time the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized, those who grieve, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all others whose needs are known to us. Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they may have a sense of purpose in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful God, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. We remember those no longer among us on earth, who have completed their earthly races and have won the final victory in Christ. Lead us to follow in their way, that we may rejoice together eternally with saints and angels. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

Hymnal page 781, verses 1 and 2

1. We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2. May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give!

LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

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.



HYMN

“He’s Risen, He’s Risen” Hymnal page 480

1. He’s risen, He’s risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death’s prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song,
And, earth, sea, and mountain, their praises prolong.

2. The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

3. But short was their triumph, the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes;
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high.
He lives, yes, He lives, and will never more die.

4. Oh, where is thy sting, Death? We fear thee no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden’s door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

△ 5. Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.
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Pastoral Care:
Please contact –

Pastor Scott Ganas at: (951) 795-8162, or
Judy Gunther at: (626) 833-5613

BLESSED TO BE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Pastor Scott Ganas
Greeter: Patricia Caballero
Reader: Christine Geltz
Musician: Christine Geltz
Ushers: Craig Boehne, Donald Lammerts, & Dave Lassanske

PRAYERS OF CARE & CONCERN FOR OUR FLC FAMILY

Philip Caballero: Please pray for his speedy recovery from his several falls and low sodium situation.

Jean Hyland: A long time member suffered a fall and passed away on March 7th, 2024. Please pray for her family during their time of grief and loss. There will be a memorial service planned here on May 18th, 2024 (Saturday) at 11:00 a.m.

Debbie Morrow: This former student from First Lutheran School (who is the niece of Pat Grabowski and Connie Kean) shall be receiving heavy duty chemo treatments for her cancer approximately every three weeks. Please pray for her cancer struggles to be healed.

Anna Rostek: Pray for our Missionary as she continues to deal with her various cancer issues. (She is Pat Grabowski's and Connie Kean's niece.) In addition, you may send Get Well greeting cards to her at:

709 42ndA Street North, Great Falls MT (Montana) 59405

Sunday Worship at Home

If you are unable to attend worship, you can listen to the Lutheran Hour sermon at 8:00 a.m. on station KBRT AM 740 each Sunday.

If you have a TV and can get DirectTV, Channel 377 you can view Worship Anew at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. This service is filmed at our Fort Wayne Seminary in Indiana. For those people who have a computer, the Worship Anew worship service can be viewed via the internet at any time.



You may, also, access Pastor Scott's sermon online by going to:

<https://firstlutherantc.org/Media>

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m.

9:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

TODAY – APRIL 14

Fellowship time

Missionary Report from Anna Rostek & Sunday School

Special Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday Prayer Group, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This group is, currently, meeting via the telephone. Let Jo Tschopp know if you want to participate.

