



**Sunday, April 18, 2021 - Third Sunday of Easter**  
**St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church**  
**Greendale, WI [www.ssmelca.org](http://www.ssmelca.org)**

***Introduction***

*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.*

*~Please quiet your hearts, your minds, and your cell phones ~*

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE - Prelude in C Major, BWV 553 J. S. Bach**

**LITANY OF PRAISE FOR SUNDAY RE-GATHERING**

Today, O God of the everlasting arms,  
we rejoice at this re-gathering of our congregation:  
we praise you for Sunday worship in word and sacrament;  
for infants, children, youth, adults, and the aged together;  
for live music;  
for Bible study;  
for service with one another for the wider community'  
O God, we rejoice at this re-gathering for baptismal life together.  
Empower our church, faithful God.  
And we pray, O God of safe harbor, for the emergence of a wholesome world:  
with health restored; mourners consoled; vaccines available; fear replaced with confidence;  
sorrow turned to joy...  
O God, we pray for the emergence of a wholesome world.  
Renew the whole world, merciful God.  
Give us your peace, eternal God. Amen.

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.  
We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.  
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.  
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### **GREETING**

**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**

**C: Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of 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 READING - Acts 3:12-19** (Read by: Andi Matusiak)

*After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.*

<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."

**L:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING - 1 John 3:1-7** (Read by: Andi Matusiak)

*God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.*

<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.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL - Luke 24:36b-48**

*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.*

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE - "Being Witnesses" Rev. Brian Hooper**

**HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW #385 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"**

*Solo: Denise Sanders*

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*

was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: On this third Sunday of Easter, we pray for all in any need, responding to each petition with words, “**Hear us when we call.**”

Holy and righteous God, for the church, we pray:  
for our own congregation, for the churches of all our neighbors and around the globe,  
and for the church in Tanzania. Savior, bless your people, and have mercy on us.

**C: Hear us when we call.**

L: For the earth we pray:  
for the well-being of plants, and animals wild and tame, for the birds, especially  
songbirds whose numbers are decreasing, and for this week’s Earth Day, that good will  
come from the worldwide observance. O God our Creator, restore your handiwork, and  
have mercy on us.

**C: Hear us when we call.**

L: For peace we pray:  
for the end of warfare, terrorism, and cruelty to the poor, for a respectful treatment of  
refugees and all who are incarcerated, work through your people to bring an end to gun  
violence, bring peace to the nations, and have mercy on us.

**C: Hear us when we call.**

L: For justice we pray:  
for the liberation of all who are oppressed, for an end to ethnic and economic prejudice,  
and especially for all court cases in this and every land. O God our Refuge, protect the  
vulnerable, and have mercy on us.

**C: Hear us when we call.**

L: For all who are sick and suffering, for those who have no access to the coronavirus  
vaccines, for the children afflicted with the virus variants, for everyone who fears  
receiving medical advice and assistance, for those who live with chronic pain, for those  
whose pain is known only to you, and especially for those we name here before you...O  
God our Caregiver, heal the sick, and have mercy on us.

**C: Hear us when we call.**

L: We remember before you all the witnesses of the resurrection, the saints of old, those  
who have died by violence or by the coronavirus, and especially our relatives and friends.  
O God our Resurrection, give us life now and forever, and have mercy on us.

**C: Hear us when we call.**

*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*

P: Receive these prayers into your heart of mercy for the sake of the holy and righteous one,  
Jesus Christ, our wondrous Redeemer.  
C: **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

C: **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.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.  
C: **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY** *(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app found on the resource tab at [ssmelca.org](http://ssmelca.org) or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to other with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.  
C: **Amen**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.  
The God of life,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
C: **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C:** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**P:** Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**C:** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE - Fugue in C Major, BWV 553 J.S. Bach**

*From sundaysandseasons.com.*

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*The Eternal Candle is given by Cathy Peterson  
in Memory of Rick Peterson & Jane Peter*

### **KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER**

Suzi Angeletti, Pastor Hartmut Barsnick, Melissa Cooper, Joyce Gagliano, Terry Gillespie, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Shirley Lieske, Vic & Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, Shirley Rau, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Richard Sontvedt, Nancy Rutzen, John Winter.  
Barbara Stein at the passing of her son Tom.

### **PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff  
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM  
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan  
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family  
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff  
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother-in-law of Barbara & Dan Davies  
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman  
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman  
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob Lieske  
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas  
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann  
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb Davies  
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson  
Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus  
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan  
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau  
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant  
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant  
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese  
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt  
Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly Rosenstock  
The Lynn Gillen Family, granddaughter to Fred & Carol Mueller  
Nikki Bruneau, friend of Kelly Sachse  
James Haas, friend of Mark & Patti Winter  
Tom S., Son of Barbara

Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller  
Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen  
Tinsley Marie, great granddaughter of Sue Herman  
Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda Johnson  
Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend of the Homeless  
Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning  
Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski  
Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan Kowalewski  
Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller  
Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese  
Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese  
Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt  
Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson  
Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan  
Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman  
Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll  
Sharon Maschke, sister-in-law of Pam Maschke  
Tim Ingram, grandson of Carole & Ron Ropel  
Denise Hajos, friend of Kelly Sachse  
Sandy, sister of Kevin Ernst  
Bonnie, friend of Kurt & Jenny Koeff  
Pat Thiede, friend of Nancy Schneider  
Jackie Lucas, friend of Nancy Schneider  
Louie and Beth Baumgartner, family members of the Lieske's.  
Bob Guiliani, brother of Char Guiliani  
Beth & Kory Buck, cousin of Maren Hooper  
Barbara Goelz, friend of Kelly Sachse

*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*