

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

A Hike of a Lifetime

April 26, 2020



AS WE GATHER

The seven Sundays of Easter celebrate the greatest of all victories—the defeat of sin, death, and the devil by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The theme of victory fills each of the Sundays of Easter and radiates out the joy of the first Easter morning week by week. One Easter hymnwriter exhorts: “Let hymns of praise His triumph tell” (*LSB* 464:3). There is so much to be sung and to be told about the victory of Jesus, our Lord—and we are the ones gifted with the opportunity to do the singing and the telling in our generation.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN LSB 465 “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
△ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has tri - umphed!
fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has tri - umphed!
heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has tri - umphed!



He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
He is liv - ing!” Now still He comes to give us
through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the Fa - ther and our

clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 life And by His pres - ence stills all
 day That by our lives we tru - ly
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly

here: “Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!”
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
 say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

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. Alleluia!

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. Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our creator and preserver, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are stained by sin from our very beginnings. We have sinned again and again in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves and have 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 all of our many sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us victory over all that oppresses us, and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: In His boundless mercy, God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him for restoration and renewal. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, and grant you a life on earth in which you tell of His greatness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

☩ **WORD** ☩

HYMN OF PRAISE LSB 484 "Make Songs of Joy"



1 Make songs of joy to Christ, our head; Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Our life was pur - chased by His loss; Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 O death, where is your dead - ly sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 And where your vic - to - ry, O grave, Al - le - lu - ia!



He lives a - gain who once was dead! Al - le - lu - ia!
 He died our death up - on the cross. Al - le - lu - ia!
 As - sumed by our tri - um - phant King! Al - le - lu - ia!
 When one like Christ has come to save? Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Behold, the tyrants, one and all,
Alleluia!
Before our mighty Savior fall!
Alleluia!

6 For this be praised the Son who rose,
Alleluia!
The Father, and the Holy Ghost!
Alleluia!

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

ALL: **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.
Amen.**

FIRST LESSON *Acts 2:14a, 36–41*

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸ 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. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ 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*

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ 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 ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.^[a] ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For,

“All people are like grass,

and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,

²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever.”^[b]

And this is the word that was preached to you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

EASTER CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, Who sent His Son as my Savior to rise on Easter morning.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, died on Good Friday, rose again on Easter morning to free me from the curse of sin and the sting of death and the power of the devil.

I believe in the Holy Spirit Who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Easter, and by Whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of my resurrected Lord. Amen.

HYMN LSB 707 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



- Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

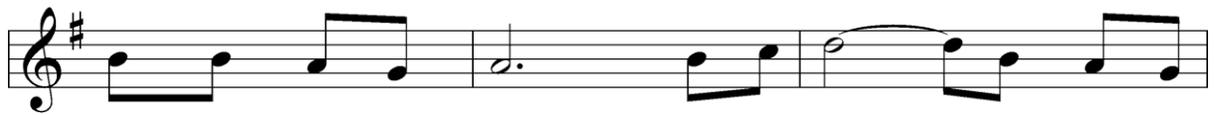
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MESSAGE "Taking a Hike with Jesus"

HYMN LSB 879 "Stay with Us"



- 1 Stay with us, till night has come: Our praise to
- 2 Walk with us, our spir - its sigh: Hear when our
- 3 Walk with us, the road will bend: Make all our
- 4 Talk with us, till we be - hold A joy - ful
- 5 Stay with us, till day is done: No tears nor



You this day be sung. Bless our bread, O - pen our
wea - ry spir - its cry, Feel a - gain Our loss, our
weep - ing, wail - ing end. Wipe our tears, For - give our
life You will un - fold: Heal our eyes To see the
dark shall dim the sun. Cheer the heart, Your grace im -



eyes: Je - sus, be our great sur - prise.
pain: Je - sus, take us to Your side.
fears: Je - sus, lift the heav - y cross.
prize: Je - sus, take us to the light.
part: Je - sus, bring e - ter - nal life.

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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 joyfully be told throughout all the world and the Easter victory of Jesus Christ be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

People: We pray for the nations of the world, that the governments of all nations be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms be hindered. Lord, in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for ourselves in this season of our Lord's great victory, that we 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.

People: We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially for those who deal with special challenges or

dangers on a regular basis, including police, fire, and 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,

All: 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 not known to us at this time. Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they have a sense of victory in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

People: Merciful God, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. On this day 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 rejoice together eternally at Your Table and in Your mansions. Lord in Your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

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.

BENEDICTION

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

LSB 477 “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re-treat;
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va - tion bled—
Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir-it, Fount of love and sanc-ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

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