



because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died.

2 Corinthians 5:14

Sunday, April 14, 2024

The Third Sunday of Easter

Service Theme

WE HAVE A MEANINGFUL MESSAGE TO SHARE

A platitude is a statement aimed at helping soothe some sort of emotional unease. “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.” Or “Life is a mystery.” Or “Good things come to those who wait.” While platitudes may be well-intentioned, at best they come off as trite. And since platitudes provide no real help, they can actually make a situation worse. Tell the one whose heart is shattering, “Life is a mystery.” They won’t appreciate your platitude or you. The resurrection gives believers the ability to offer more than platitudes. We have a meaningful message to share—of repentance, of forgiveness, of peace, of power. The reality is we have something important to say to every single person that God brings into our sphere of influence. And our risen Savior gives us the courage and power to share that meaningful message.

Hymn

CW21 451 "See What a Morning"

**1 See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem:
Folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light,
As the Angels announce, "Christ is risen"
See God's salvation plan,
Wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

**2 See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb.
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name:
"It's the Master, the Lord, raised to life again!"
The voice that spans the years,
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
Will sound 'til He appears,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

**3 One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.
Honor and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with power and authority!
And we are raised with Him:
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.
And we shall reign with Him
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!
And we are raised with Him;
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.
And we shall reign with Him,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

Order of Service
Divine Service 1 (CWS p.15)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

C: (*sing*) Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us. Amen.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*spoken*) Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

(CWS p.16)

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: *(sing)* **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory!

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer, receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Glory to God, glory to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(CWS p.18)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

1st Lesson

Acts 3:11-20 (EHV)

Peter healed a crippled beggar, drawing a large crowd.

Peter used that opportunity to share a meaningful message about the one the people of Jerusalem asked Pilate to crucify.

¹¹While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people came running toward them in utter amazement in the area called Solomon's Colonnade.

¹²When Peter saw this, he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us, as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you. ¹⁵You killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶And on the basis of faith in his name, it is the name of Jesus that has strengthened this man, whom you see and know. This faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"Now brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just like your leaders. ¹⁸But in this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through the mouth of all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. ¹⁹Therefore repent and return to have your sins wiped out, ²⁰so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.

Psalm

150 (CW p. 122)

Refrain

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Praise God in his sanctuary;*
praise him in his mighty heavens.**

**Praise him for his acts of power;*
praise him for his surpassing greatness.**

Refrain

**Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,*
praise him with the harp and lyre,**

**praise him with tambourine and dancing,*
praise him with strings and flute,**

**praise him with the clash of cymbals,*
praise him with resounding cymbals.**

Refrain

**Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.*
Praise the LORD.**

**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.**

Refrain

Second Lesson

1 John 1:5–2:2 (EHV)

St. John summarizes the meaningful message we have heard and been called to declare: God is light.

⁵This is the message we heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light. In him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him but still walk in darkness, we are lying and do not put the truth into practice. ⁷But if we walk in the light, just as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us.

My children, I write these things to you so that you will not sin. If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate before the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

Verse of the Day

(CWS p. 19)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations. Alleluia.
(Luke 24:46,47)

Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-23, 30-31(EHV)

C: (sing) Glory be to you, O Lord! Glory be to you, O Lord!

The risen Saviour gives his disciples the authority to represent him in the world.

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." ²²After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

³⁰Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

Apostles Creed
(CWS p.20)

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

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, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

Hymn

CWS 771 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

**1 I want to walk as a child of the light;
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world;
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain

**In him there is no darkness at all;
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2 I want to see the brightness of God;
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path
And show me the way to the Father.**

Refrain

**3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ;
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.**

Refrain

Sermon Text & Theme

2 Corinthians 5:14-21... Christ's love compels us:

- 1) *To live for him*
- 2) *To love others*
- 3) *To proclaim the Gospel*

¹⁴For the love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.

¹⁶As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way. ¹⁷So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! ¹⁸And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Create In Me
(CWS p.21)

C: (sing) Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold, uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offertory Prayer

Prayer for the Easter Season
(CW page 126)

M: O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

C: Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

C: Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

M: Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory.

C: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

M: Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

C: Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

M: Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
(CWS p.22)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Final Prayer & Blessing
(CWS p.27)

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

or

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you
peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn

CW 562 I Love to Tell the Story

**1 I love to tell the story Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story Because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.**

Refrain

**I love to tell the story; 'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story Of Jesus and his love.**

**2 I love to tell the story, For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story That I have loved so long.**

Refrain

Announcements

Church Cleaners:

April 21 – Matthew // April 28 – Andrew

Long Range Planning Training

On Saturday, May 4th, Circuit Pastor Caleb Schultz will be meeting with all who are interested from Divine Word and Abiding Word for a daylong Seminar on Long Range Planning. Please let pastor Sullivan know ASAP if you are interested in attending this seminar so he can email you information as it becomes available.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (14) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship

11:45 am Divine Sisters Meeting

Tu (16) 7:00 pm Elders Meeting

We (17) 5:30 pm "Test the Spirits"

Th (18) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)

6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (19) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study

4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

Su (21) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship (with Communion)

11:45 am Evangelism Meeting

3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore

4:00 pm Voters Meeting in Poltimore

Tu (23) 7:00 pm Council Meeting

We (24) 5:30 pm "Test the Spirits"

Th (25) 6:00 pm Illuminé (at St. Paul's)

6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (26) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study

4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

Su (28) 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30 am Worship



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