



*Third Sunday of Easter  
Worship  
April 18, 2021  
Let us worship our  
Risen Lord!*

*CALL TO WORSHIP*

*Peace be with you*

**And also with you.**

*Come and see the love God has given to us.*

**Come and see what it means to be children of God.**

*Come with this hope, that Christ's presence is real.*

**With joy, we come to see the Lord.**

*OPENING PRAYER*

**Miraculous God, come to us now, even as your Son came to those first disciples on the shores of Galilee. Speak your peace to our hearts. Touch us with your Holy Spirit. Reveal your word, that we may hear your message this day, and live as your disciples in the days and years to come. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN #248 Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

1. Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen!

Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

2. Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend. Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

3. Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

*CALL TO CONFESSION*

*If our actions mirrored our words, if our hands were mentored by our hearts, if we walked the talk - we would be God's children. But too often, it is our silence, our doubts, our fears which tell others who we truly are. Let us confess to God how we have not been as faithful as we hope.*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENNESS*

**God our Father and Mother, through your love we are your children. Yet we do not recognize your Son, our brother, as he works among us. We look for a ghost with wounded hands and feet, and pass by as he keeps the watch with the broken and wounded on our streets. We wonder if we would recognize him, even if he asked for something to eat on our doorstep. O God, open our minds to understand the Scriptures. Forgive us and open our eyes, that we may see our Lord and join him in his work. Amen.**

*WORDS OF BLESSING AND ASSURANCE*

*What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers - to us! We really are God's people - that is exactly who we are! We are God's children - those whose lives have been changed by the One*

*who loves us and forgives us. So let us remember that Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.*

*FIRST SCRIPTURE READING* 1 John 3:1-7

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.

*TIME WITH THE CHILDREN*

*HYMN #240* Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

*Refrain:* Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation. *Refrain*
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain*
3. We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever. *Refrain*
4. Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior. *Refrain*

*SECOND SCRIPTURE READING* Luke 24:36-48

<sup>36</sup>While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them 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. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

*SERMON* Finding Our Sacred Center

*RECOGNITION AND RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

**What will be done with the gifts we offer in these moments has not been revealed to us, Holy God, but knowing you through Jesus, and trusting in you by the power of the Holy Spirit, we do know they will be used to bring hope, to bring healing, to bring justice to all those people and places who long for these blessings. And so we offer these gifts with gratitude to you, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*JOYS AND CONCERNS*

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER*

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

*HYMN #246 Christ Is Alive!*

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.

2. Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,  
He comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.

3. Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains.  
But daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

4. In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn or wealth divide,  
he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
'till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

*BENEDICTION*

## Sunday April 18th – ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY** - Join us today for Sunday school class for all ages at 11:30am on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/127591875>. For one half hour our children will be hearing stories, singing songs, engaging in activities and games about God and God's teachings.

**THURSDAY EVENING STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP:** 7pm on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782.

**VIRTUAL MISSION PROJECT** – **April 23, 2021** - You are invited to join together at 7:00 on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/127591875> Meeting ID: 127 591 875 or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782. We are going to help Allies Inc. the organization that provides group homes and programs for disabled adults by creating cheery simple craft kits for them to complete on their own.



We'll have fun together engaging in conversation while we cut out the shapes for the kits – the end product is a paper flowered wreath. The shapes and other supplies will be placed in a gallon-sized ziplock bag.

The kits will also include coloring pages and crayons. All will be donated to Allies who will then distribute them among their hundreds of individuals. Kits to make kits will be available the week prior to the event beginning on April 19<sup>th</sup>. You are also welcome to provide your own supplies. Patterns will be in the kits as well as sent out in an email for download.

This could be a very fun event since we will be together. Bring your own dessert or beverage, if you like. With you there, we know you will bring the entertainment just by being you! You can bring joy to those near and far. What a blessing!

**Calendar:** April 21 7PM Confirmation Class - Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/127591875>

April 23 Wreath Making

**In our thoughts and prayers:** Su Fall, Doris Elliott, The Conner/Lang Family, Diane Dauer, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Nancy Yerkes, Raymond Tinari, Dick Wright

We extend our sincere sympathies to Judy Ferguson and her family after the death of Jim. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*