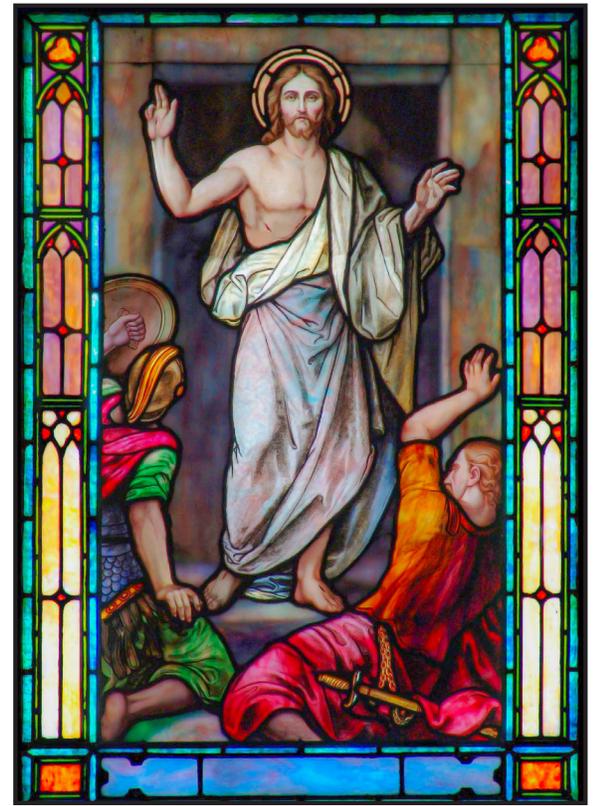


*"Where All Are Welcome . . . No Exceptions!"*

# The Third Sunday of Easter

*April 18, 2021*

## The Holy Eucharist The Word of God



**Prelude**      **Voluntary** *'Alleluia, The Strife is O'er'*  
*Hymn Tune: Victory*  
*Arranged & Performed by: Sheridan Seyfried*

**Opening Hymn** (*Please stand as able*)      *Please see page 8*

#208 | *"Alleluia, The Strife is O'er"*

**Children's Chat** - *Robert Freeman*

*Celebrant*      Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
*People*      ***The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

*Celebrant*      Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Canticle of Praise:** *This Is the Feast*

*Celebrant*  
  
This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

*All*  
  
1. Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

  
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and

  
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*  
  
This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2. Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the  
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glor - ry and  
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - tory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant prays the Collect*

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*People* ***Amen.***

## First Reading *(Please be seated)*

*Reader* A Reading from Acts:

### *Introduction to the First Reading*

*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.*

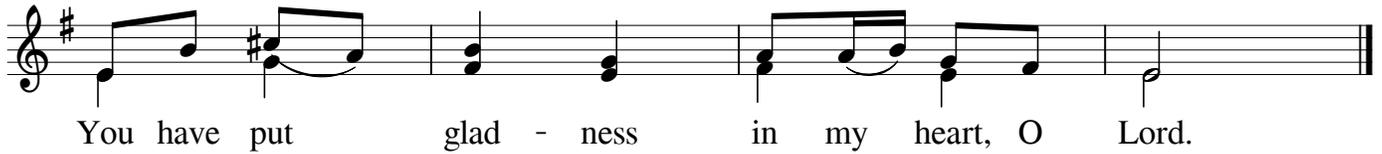
*Acts 3:12-19*

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? 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. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 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.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***



Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;  
 you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
 have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;  
 how long will you worship dumb idols  
 and run after false gods?” [ANT.]

Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;  
 when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.

Tremble, then, and do not sin;  
 speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

Offer the appointed sacrifices  
 and put your trust in the LORD. [ANT.]

Many are saying,  
 “Oh, that we might see better times!”  
 Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.

You have put gladness in my heart,  
 more than when grain and wine and oil increase.  
 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep;  
 for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety [ANT.]

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**Second Reading - Bel Gwiazdowski**

*Reader* A reading from the First Letter of John, the First Chapter:

***Introduction to the Second Reading***

*God has loved us by making us children of God. Though we do not yet know fully the details of our future life, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins. Christian believers grow in their resemblance to God by imitating Christ in their behavior.*

*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. 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. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

**Sequence Hymn** (*Please stand as able*) – *Please see page 9*

**#182 | “Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”**

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke:

*People* ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

**The Holy Gospel** (*The Gospel is carried into the congregation so that we remember it is our Good News to hear and to share.*)  
*Luke 24:36b-48*

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 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.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

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.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## THE SERMON

### **The Nicene Creed** *(Please stand as able)*

*We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

### **The Prayers of the People**

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

*(The congregation may add their own petitions either silently or aloud after the prayer list is read.)*

In the hope of new life in Christ, O Lord, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*(The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect.)*

**The Confession of Sin** *(Please kneel as able or be seated)*

*Reader* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence may be kept)*

*People* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

**The Absolution**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**The Peace** *(Please stand as able)*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

**The Holy Communion**

*Being seated, we begin with a time of offering, giving money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and showing our gratitude for God's many blessings.*

*Your faithful tithes and offerings are much needed and can be sent to:*

*The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, PO Box 441, Milton, DE 19968 OR*

*Securely online through our website - <https://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org/give.html>*

**Offertory Sentence & Interlude**

**Doxology** *(The offering is presented as the Doxology is sung. Please stand as able)*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;  
 Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
 heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.

**Offertory Hymn**

*Please see page 10*

**#205 | "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!"**



All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,  
*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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

## The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

## A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart and my soul. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you, my Lord and my God! Amen.*

**Distribution Anthem - "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"** Words: William Chatterton Dix & Music: Hyfrydol, Rowland Prichard  
Vocalist: Robert Freeman Accompanist: Scott Kresge

## Post Communion Prayer (Please kneel or be seated)

*Celebrant* Let us pray.  
*People* *Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your presence, that as we lament our separation from one another, we may continually show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

## Benediction

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

**Closing Hymn** (Please stand as able) *Please see page 11* #180 | "He is Risen, He is Risen!"

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the Name of the Risen Christ.

*People* *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Postlude** Voluntary "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" David Schelat

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*The Rev. Thomas M. White, Rector*  
*J. Edwin Stout, Acolyte*  
*Scott Kresge, Organist/Videography/Streaming*  
*Robert Freeman, Cantor/Soloist*  
*Elizabeth Scheer, Videography/Streaming*

*Antiphon (at the beginning)*

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

*Ped.*  $\text{p}$

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -  
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
 \*3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es  
 4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from  
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly  
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our  
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his  
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

*Antiphon (at the end)*

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

*Ped.*  $\text{p}$

Words: Latin, 1695; tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt.  
 Music: *Victory*, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); adapt. and arr.  
 William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -  
 4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,  
 5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the  
 3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the  
 4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet  
 5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.  
 2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.  
 3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.  
 4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.  
 5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), rev.

Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmody Evangelica, Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

LM

Words: Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joi - ce and sing! Now is the  
 \*2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of  
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that  
 4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -  
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joi - ce and say:  
 3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
 4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:  
 5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

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!

Words: Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955), alt. St. 5, Norman Mealy (b. 1923)  
 Music: *Gelobt sei Gott*, Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616)

# Recessional Hymn

"He is Risen, He is Risen!"

180

Easter

1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with  
 2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and  
 \*3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri -  
 4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened

joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;  
 ra - diant brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;  
 um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming  
 hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,

let the whole wide earth re - joice: death is con - quered,  
 Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion  
 yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, break - ing o'er the  
 ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er

we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.  
 that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.  
 pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.  
 Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.  
 Music: *Unser Herrscher*, Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

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