

Third Sunday in Easter

April 18, 2021

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birth of Chase Liam Sterling – March 31, 2021 – Son of Phil & Brittany Sterling.

“The Red Sea Miracle” – a new Adult Bible Study meeting after the service (11:00)

Via ZOOM – please e-mail Pastor Vern (pv@mybslc.org) for your invitation

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 16:11b; 30:1–3*

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: In Your presence there is fullness of joy;

C: at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

P: I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up

C: and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

P: O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.

C: O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 3:1; Psalm 30:4–5; 16:11b*

P: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” Gracious Lord, by Your name You have called us Your own children, and we are to pray, praise, and give thanks to You.

C: Yet we often choose not to see the love You have given to us, letting other things of this world impede our vision of Your mercy and grace in Christ. We do not always live as You have called us to be as Your children.

P: We confess our sins to God in repentance, turning from those things that lead us away, turning back to You in the love You’ve shown.

(Silence for reflection)

**P: Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord,
C: we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess our many failures as we have not followed You joyfully and trustingly. We have not loved others as You have first loved us,. Our thoughts, words, and deeds have not been pleasing to You. Forgive, renew and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.**

**P: Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints,
C: and give thanks to His holy name.**

**P: For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.
C: Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

**P: In Your presence there is fullness of joy;
C: at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**P: "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As His children, may He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a renewed life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

SHARING THE PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE "Yes, We All Agree!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, How amazing is your love, a love that overcomes, endures and redeems. How astounding is your life, a life that sustains, heals and creates. How awesome is the hope You give us, a hope that promises, restores and inspires. How absorbing is your truth, a truth that releases, changes and rebuilds. Help us in this hour to relish those gifts of love, life, hope and truth, and help us to carry them out into our homes, our work places, our community and to the corners of the earth, until You come to bring us home to live with You where You reign with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 3:11–21* (Peter preaches salvation through Christ.)

While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 John 3:1–7* (We are God's children now.)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

- L:** Alleluia! Christ has risen from the dead.
God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor
- C:** He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
He has put all things under His feet. Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:36–49* (Amid disciples' doubts, the resurrected Christ affirms the fulfillment of God's Word.)

- P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.
- C:** Glory to You, O Lord.

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit 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. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

- P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C:** Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 700 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

SERMON "Did You Have a Reaction?" Pastor Vern Acts 3:11-21

CONFESSION OF FAITH**THE NICENE CREED***Please stand*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING**✠ SACRAMENT ✠****PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING****“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” (LSB 955)**

P: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” And because we are family, our heavenly Father gathers us around the Table of the Lord to “taste and see that the Lord is good!” Let us join hearts and voices as we sing a Prayer of Thanksgiving: “Let the Vineyard be Fruitful.”

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord
And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
That we may be fed with the Bread of Life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
Unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with Your presence,
And give us, a foretaste of the feast to come.

SELF-REFLECTION

P: Let us now consider our worthiness to receive this heavenly feast.

P: Are you baptized in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

C: Yes, I am baptized and believe in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

P: Do you know you are a sinner in need of God's grace?

C: Yes, I know I sin daily in thought, word and deed, and I am sorrowful for every offence!

P: Do you believe Jesus died to atone for your sins?

C: I not only believe Jesus died for my sins, but as a perfect sacrifice, He broke the power of death and the grave to grant me a resurrected life today and everyday!

P: Do I believe that God offers His forgiveness through the "real" presence of Jesus, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine?

C: Yes, and I cling to this mystery by faith because Jesus promised, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

P: Do you seek to amend your sinful life?

C: Most certainly yes, and I pray for the Holy Spirit to work His power in me, that I may overcome my weaknesses and inclination toward sin by the power that raised Jesus from the dead!

**P: Then come to the table of the Lord,
you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;
you who have been to this sacrament often and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed.
Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.**

Jesus says to one and all,

'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' (John 6:35)

AS WE APPROACH THE TABLE OF THE LORD

P: Let us now approach the table of the Lord with sincere hearts, praying as one body:

P: Merciful Lord,

C: we do not presume to come to this Your table, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Your table.

But You are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink His blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed, through His most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

P: Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, remembering Your blood-filled tears as You prayed for us in the garden, we now pray as You taught us, that we might receive everything needful for our journey to glory:

All: 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.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: With the very words of Christ we consecrate and partake of this sacred meal.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

(Let us eat together the body of Christ.)

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

(Let us drink together from the cup of salvation, the blood of Christ shed for our sins.)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us in, with, and under bread and wine with the body and blood of Your dear Son. Strengthen our faith in You and in our love for others in Your kingdom and throughout our community, country, and world, as we strive not only to see Your love, but also continue to grow in it and be nourished through faith as Your children and rejoice in the grace You give; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BLESSING OF THE LORD *Numbers 6:24–26*

P: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN No. 461 "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (vss. 1,2,7,8)

I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever living head!

He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence give:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

SENDING

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

RECESSIONAL