

Blessed Savior Lutheran Church

1205 North Lincoln Ave
O'Fallon, IL
(618) 632-0126
www.mybslc.org
Worship –9:30 am.

Pastor Tony Troup (618-340-8375), Vacancy Pastor
Pastor Perry Schefelker (618-322-7498), Vacancy Pastor
Akoh Daniel Kofi, Lector
Cheryl Vohlken, Organist
Sunday School & Bible Class: 10:45am

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 14, 2024

EASTER PEOPLE REJOICE

Luke reports that at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples “disbelieved for joy” (24:41). The theme of rejoicing is woven throughout the Scriptures. The psalmist exhorts: “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!” (66:1–2). The prophet Isaiah assures God’s people that they will have cause for rejoicing as he writes: “For the LORD comforts Zion; . . . joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (51:3). Paul writes to people who know of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter day: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The season of Easter is a time for joyous praise that begins now!



✘ PREPARATION ✘

HYMN No 474 “Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”
Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, Heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight! Refrain

Refrain:
Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center
Telling the story to open our eyes;

**Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing our constant surprise. Refrain**

**Jesus the vine, We are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain**

**Weeping, be gone; Sorrow be silent:
Death put a sunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. Refrain**

**City of God, Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and arch-angels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! Refrain**

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 118:24; Romans 6:9; adapt. from
Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8*

P: This is the day that the LORD has made;
C: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P: Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
C: **death no longer has dominion over Him.**

P: Christ has risen from the dead.
C: **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

P:: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
C: **He has put all things under His feet.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

C: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed 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 these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May he keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 16:11b*

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

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

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

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

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.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Living Lord, You have commanded us to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations. To fulfill this command, we ask You to clothe us with the power from on high, Your Holy Spirit, that we may carry the amazing message of Your resurrection to the ends of the earth; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 3:11–21* (Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.)

While (the lame man who was now healed 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 again, 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.

P: 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.**

HYMN No 808 "O Sing to the Lord"

**O sing to the Lord,
O sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord,
O sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord,
O sing God a new song.
O sing to our God,
O sing to our God.**

**For God is the Lord!
And God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord!
And God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord!
And God has done wonders.
O sing to our God,
O sing to our God.**

**So dance for our God
And blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God
And blow all the trumpets.**

**So dance for our God
And blow all the trumpets.
And sing to our God
And sing to our God.**

**O shout to our God,
Who gave us the Spirit.
O shout to our God,
Who gave us the Spirit.
O shout to our God,
Who gave us the Spirit.
O sing to our God,
O sing to our God.**

**For Jesus is Lord!
Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord!
Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord!
Amen! Alleluia!
O sing to our God,
O sing to our God.**

HOLY GOSPEL **Luke 24:36–49**(The disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.) (please rise)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

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 and 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.

CONFESSION OF FAITH THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

**From thence 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** *(Please be seated
after Creed.)*

HYMN No 490 “Jesus Lives ! The Victory’s Won”

**Jesus lives! The victory’s won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! To Him the throne
There above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living.
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever
Neither death nor pow’rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.**

**God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.**

**Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense;
Jesus is my confidence.**

SERMON

Rev. Gary Byers

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: 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 may joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world and the forgiveness of sins be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the nations of the world, that governments would be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms may be hindered, bringing a sense of security and well-being in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for ourselves in this amazing season of our Lord's great victory that we may truly be Easter people all year long, radiating the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police officers, firefighters, and other 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are ill, [*especially . . .*], those who grieve, the unemployed and underemployed, shut-ins, and all others whose needs are known to us. Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they may have a sense of purpose in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. 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 may rejoice together eternally with saints and angels. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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 BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN NO 480 "He's Risen, He's Risen"
Please rise

**He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.**

**The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones feared.**

**But short was their triumph, the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes;
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high.
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.**

**Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.**

**Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain;
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.**

SENDING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God!**