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ALL WHO HAVE THIS
HOPE IN HIM
PURIFY THEMSELVES,
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JUST AS
HE IS PURE.
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1 JOHN 3:3, NIV

THE ORDER OF THE DIVINE SERVICE
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 18, 2021 – 8:00 AM

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. In May of 2020, we celebrated forty-two years of ministry. Celebrating our Savior's love continues today in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

The Sundays of Easter celebrate the greatest of all victories - the defeat of sin, death, and the devil by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The theme of victory fills each of the Sundays of Easter and radiates out the joy of the first Easter morning. The Hymn of Praise begins with the words, "This is the feast of victory for our God." This joyful truth is to be re-echoed through all of the worship of God's people on earth as it is endlessly proclaimed by the hosts of Heaven!

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

St. Magnus - R. Hobby

GREETING



INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
C **Death no longer has dominion over Him.** (*Romans 6:9*)

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.** (*Matthew 28:7, Hebrews 2:7*)

❖ **CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS**

P Let us confess our sins to God and one another, acknowledging that we have not always displayed the unity we share in Christ Jesus.
C **Lord God, Heavenly Father, we ask You to forgive us for our many sins of thought, word, and deed. We humbly acknowledge that we are responsible for sin that has served to divide and fracture relationships with other believers. We have not always walked the extra mile or turned the other cheek.**
C **We are truly sorry for our sins. For the sake of Your Son Jesus, crucified and risen, we seek Your Pardon and Your Forgiveness. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.
C **Amen.**

P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C **Amen.**

❖ **HYMN OF PRAISE**

This is the Feast – arr. R. Hillert

LSB 155

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. Refrain**

**2. Power and riches and wisdom and strength
And honor and blessing and glory are His. Refrain**

**3. Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation:**

**4. Blessing and honor and glory and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain**

**5. For the Lamb who was slain
Has begun His reign. Alleluia. Refrain**

❖ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world.

C Give to Your faithful people, who have been rescued from the peril of everlasting death, gladness forever and eternal joy. We pray though Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 3:11-21

(Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.)

While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.

When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Servant Jesus.

You handed Him over to be killed, and you disowned Him before Pilate, though He had decided to let Him go.

You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.

You killed the Author of Life, but God raised Him from the dead.

We are witnesses of this.

By faith in the Name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong.

It is Jesus' Name and the faith that comes through Him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

"Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders.

But this is how God fulfilled what He had foretold through all the prophets, saying that His Christ would suffer.

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that He may send the Christ, Who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. He must remain in Heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as He promised long ago through His holy prophets.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 4

(We have peace and joy because of what the Lord has done for us.)

P Answer me when I call to You, O my Righteous God.

C **Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.**

P How long, O men, will you turn My Glory into shame?

C **How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?**

P Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for Himself;

C **the LORD will hear when I call to Him.**

P In your anger do not sin;

C **when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.**

P Offer right sacrifices

C **and trust in the LORD.**

P Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?"

C **Let the light of Your Face shine upon us, O LORD.**

P You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound.

C **I will lie down and sleep in peace,**

P for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.
C **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.**

EPISTLE

I John 3:1-7

(St. John reminds us that we are God's children now.)

How great is the Love the Father has
lavished on 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.
Dear friends, now we are children of God,
and what we will be has not yet been
made known.
But we know that when He appears, we
shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as
He is.
Everyone who has this hope in Him
purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the Law; in
fact, sin is lawlessness.
But you know that He appeared so that
He might take away our sins.
And in Him is no sin.
No one who lives in Him keeps on
sinning.
No one who continues to sin has either
seen Him or known Him.
Dear children, do not let anyone lead you
astray.
He who does what is right is righteous,
just as He is righteous.

❖ ALLELUIA VERSE

C **Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia.
Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road,
while He opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.** *(Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32)*

❖ HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-49

(The Disciples are witnesses of the risen Lord.)

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

While they were still talking about this,
 Jesus Himself stood among them and said
 to them, "Peace be with you."
 They were startled and frightened,
 thinking they saw a ghost.
 He said to them, "Why are you troubled,
 and why do doubts rise in your minds?
 Look at My Hands and My Feet.
 It is I Myself!
 Touch Me and see; a ghost does not have
 flesh and bones, as you see I have."
 When He had said this, He showed them
 His Hands and Feet.
 And while they still did not believe it
 because of joy and amazement, He asked
 them, "Do you have anything here to
 eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled
 fish, and He took it and ate it in their
 presence.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
 C Praise to You, Lord Christ.

He said to them, "This is what I told you
 while I was still with you:
 Everything must be fulfilled that is written
 about Me in the Law of Moses, the
 Prophets and the Psalms."
 Then He opened their minds so they
 could understand the Scriptures.
 He told them, "This is what is written:
 The Christ will suffer and rise from the
 dead on the third day,
 and repentance and forgiveness of sins
 will be preached in His Name to all
 nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
 You are witnesses of these things.
 I am going to send you what My Father
 has promised; but stay in the city until you
 have been clothed with power from on
 high."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bob Unger

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LSB 686

1. Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
 While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
 Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;
 And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;
 He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

4. Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

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SERMON

Easter Hope that Never Gives Up Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke

I John 3:1-7

(For an outline of the sermon, see page 15 of this worship folder)



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Luther's Explanation to the Second Article of the Ancient Apostles' Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ –
true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,
Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sins, from death,
and from the power of the devil;
not with gold or silver, but with His Holy, Precious Blood
and with His innocent suffering and death,
that I may be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and
blessedness,
just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.

❖ GREETING OF PEACE

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3*) Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God’s people will be received through electronic giving, by postal mail, and in baskets located in the Narthex.)

OFFERTORY HYMN

This Joyful Eastertide

LSB 482

**1. This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow:**

Refrain

**Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen; But now has Christ arisen!**

**2. Death’s flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: Refrain**

**3. My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: Refrain**

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❖ 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.

P Lord God, Help the leaders around the world whom You have placed in positions of authority, to see You - and not themselves - as the source of wisdom for their decision-making.

C For those times when we are tempted to stray from Your Word and turn to the world's answers, forgive us for our lack of faith and show us Your powerful influence in our lives.

P Bless with Your Guidance and Direction those within Christendom whom You have selected to lead Your Church

C **O Holy Spirit, use us in some way to help turn the hearts of those whom we know to be lacking faith in Jesus**

P Bring the resources of Your Christian people to the aid of those whose lives have been turned upside down by calamity and tragedy

C **Comfort all those who have any fear and alleviate them of their concerns.**

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in Your Mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your Hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Remember us in Your Kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray:

❖ **LORD'S PRAYER**

C **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.**

❖ BENEDICTION

P May the God of peace, Who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His Will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. *(Hebrews 13:20-21)*

C **Amen.**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

C **Amen.**

❖ CLOSING HYMN

He's Risen, He's Risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord

LSB 480

1. 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.

2. 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 fear.

3. 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.

4. O, 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.

**5. 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.**

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P Christ is risen!
C **He is risen indeed!**

POSTLUDE

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense – P. Manz

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Acknowledgments

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God's Love Letter, 2: Easter Hope that Never Gives Up (1 John 3:1-7)

Easter 3

Though we might be cynical about being agents of change (either in ourselves or in the world around us), God not only calls us His own children...He has made us so! By the power of the risen Christ, the Son of God, at work in us, we do not give up hope in what God can do in us and through us. We are given to look *forward*, to the new future that the resurrected Christ has made possible.

1. **Today is the second week of a 5-week series on 1 John**, a letter all about God's love for us—and because of God's love for us, our love for one another.
2. **The Scriptures distinguish between two types of cleansing**: one gifted by God, who is Himself _____ (1 John 1:7; cf. Acts 15:9, Heb 2:11) and the other a “self-purifying” act undertaken by folks who are _____ (people like you and me...cf. 2 Cor 7:1, 1 Timothy 5:22, James 4:8, 1 Peter 1:22). 1 John 3:3 concerns the latter.
 - a) Because of Jesus, God sees us as already “clean” (John 15:3) even when we see ourselves as sinful and unclean;
 - b) The call for us to purify ourselves is not to somehow “improve” on what God has already done for us through Jesus...it is, rather, that we might grow in faith/good works regarding what we see/know about ourselves.
3. **In _____, God has called us His very own and made us His _____**. This washing of regeneration has renewed us, by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), that we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life!
4. Without Easter, it would be easy to get bogged down in the disappointments of past failures...**to give up and presume that life has only a _____ with no _____**! Because of the risen Christ, we look forward to what tomorrow brings. Because of Christ, we have hope that God is at work in us and through us to make the world a better place. Because of Jesus, ours is an Easter hope that never gives up.

Servants in Worship

Preacher.....	Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
Organist/Pianist/Vocalist.....	Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry
Vocalists.....	Rebecca Melland-Kuo, Barbara Moll
Usher.....	Charles Miller
Greeters.....	Brenda Peterson, Stacy Miller
Reader.....	Lynn Miller
Altar Care.....	Sandy Wuori



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