

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Easter 3

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Many earthly celebrations are brief. But God's divine festival of Easter inspires an ongoing afterglow. God's grace burns ever brighter as each Sunday after Easter continues to build our Christian faith and sure hope on our Savior's rising.

As mentioned last Sunday, the book of the Acts of the Apostles replaces our Old Testament lessons during this Eastertide. Therefore, we miss some prophecies pertaining to our Savior's resurrection and their related gospel gems of truth. The Book of Acts, however, offers us glimpses of the practical application of our Savior's resurrection. Built on the foundation of our Savior's resurrection, God's people proclaim the risen Savior to build God's Church.

In fact, St. Paul reminds us that Jesus' resurrection must remain central to our Christian faith. In his words, "...if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is pointless and so is your faith...but in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep... Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:13, 20, 58, EHVTM).

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, **Divine Service** "Rite Two."

Hymns: 357, 563 (1-4), 362, 563 (5)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Acts 2:14a, 36-47. Peter preaches a message of repentance, faith, and baptism in the risen Christ to the people of Jerusalem. Many receive baptism and are added to the number of the disciples. Thus, the church is born and enjoys the blessings of fellowship and community founded in Spirit-wrought faith by word and sacrament.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 67. The psalmist gives praise to God who extended the church in the early days of its history. So, the Church today will continue to sing to God to bless her with growth to His glory (*Supplement*).

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-21. Christians live in the shadow of the resurrection of their Lord as "strangers" and "in reverent fear." There is an awe that surrounds them as they consider the sacrifice of Christ and His resurrection. Faith and hope are not mere attributes in this life; they are its very essence.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Our hearts were burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road, and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us. Alleluia. (Luke 24:32, EHV)

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35. Jesus appears to two of His disciples on Easter Sunday as they trudge to the village of Emmaus. Cast down in spirit, they receive new hope and understanding as Jesus, veiled from their recognition at first, opens the Scriptures to them and rebukes their doubt. In joy they recognize Him in the breaking of bread and rejoice to spread the news of His resurrection. Our hope and faith are likewise renewed and sustained through Jesus' word.

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Sermon: Luke 24:13-35

Theme - "Jesus, Stay With Us"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- First lesson: What does it mean that Peter's preaching "*cut the people to the heart?*"
- First lesson: What solution did Peter proclaim for this cut-heart problem?
- First lesson: For what ages does baptism give God's gracious blessings according to verse 39?
- Epistle: The ancient name for this Sunday in the church year is *Jubilate* (Rejoice!). What reasons does Peter give for rejoicing?
- Gospel: Why was Cleopas and the other unnamed disciples kept at first from recognizing Jesus?
- Gospel: Agree/Disagree – Jesus' word removes our doubts and fears and causes our hearts to be on faith-fire.

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class and Sunday school: 8:00 a.m.

+Confirmation Class: Monday 3:30-5:00 p.m.

+ timeofgrace.org – a resource for timely, topical subjects answered by pastors from the Wisconsin Synod.

+ **Guests and Visitors** – We are pleased to have you worship with us today. Please sign our guest book before you leave. Our church provides a free daily devotional booklet (*Meditations*). The *Lutheran Sentinel*, a news and informational publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is also available. Please ask for a free copy.

Acts 2:14a, 36-47 - Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Gentlemen, brothers, what should we do?" Peter answered them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call." He testified solemnly with many other words and was appealing to them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added. They continued to hold firmly to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. Awe came over every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed. Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (EHVTM)

1 Peter 1:17-21 - If you call on the Father who judges impartially, according to the work of each person, conduct yourselves during the time of your pilgrimage in

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reverence, because you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that pass away, such as

silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish or spot. He was chosen before the foundation of the world but revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (EHV™)

Luke 24:13-35 - Now, on that same day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” Saddened, they stopped. One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” “What things?” he asked them. They replied, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death. And they crucified him. But we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel. Not only that, but besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Also some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning. When they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb. They found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” He said to them, “How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village where they were going, he acted as if he were going to travel farther. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, since it is almost evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he reclined at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and began giving it to them. Suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us?” They got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those who were with them assembled together. They were saying, “The Lord really has been raised! He has appeared to Simon.” They themselves described what had happened along the road, and how they recognized him when he broke the bread. (EHV™)