

Third Sunday of Easter - April 14, 2024



Themes of wonder and amazement pervade the readings for the Third Sunday of Easter. There is power in Jesus' name, as is seen through the healing of a lame beggar. The power to heal did not come from Peter and John, but from God alone. The disciples are simply instruments of God's wondrous works among the people. John reminds us in his first letter that we are all adopted into the family of God which makes us bearers of the good news of Christ and instruments of his awesome power.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR CORKY SPITLER (912) 826-2711

- ◆ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and return our thanks in prayer and praise.
- ◆ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ◆ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

LBW - DIVINE SERVICE TWO

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: KAREN WARNELL

▼ WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

▼ MUSICAL PRELUDE - KAREN WARNELL

▲ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION (Spoken)

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SELF-EXAMINATION

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

By the mercy of God, we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him. **Amen**

▲ ENTRANCE HYMN "LIVING FOR JESUS" (Insert)

▲ LITANY - (ADAPTED FROM PSALM 51)

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;

**I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.**

I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

(Continued)

**Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
You taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

We worship you dear LORD. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

▲ GREETING

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

▲ SHARE THE PEACE

▲ WORSHIP THROUGH SONG - "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD" LBW #299

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Our Lord Jesus, you have endured the doubts and foolish questions of every generation. Forgive us for trying to be judge over you, and grant us the confident faith to acknowledge you as Lord. Amen.**

▼ EPISTLE READING - DANA - EPHESIANS 2:1-10 (NLT)

¹ Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

▼ KCJAM/CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ GOSPEL VERSE (Sung)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - Matthew 22:34-40 (NLT)

The Holy Gospel from Matthew the 22nd Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: ³⁶“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” ³⁷ Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. (Deut. 6:5) ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ MESSAGE - “Joining Jesus - Through Your Daily Work”

▲ HYMN OF THE DAY - “SHINE, JESUS, SHINE” (Insert)

▲ APOSTLES’ CREED (Spoken)

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

▲ PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Spoken)

▼ SPECIAL MUSIC - CHOIR

▲ OFFERING HYMN (Sung)

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 dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

▲ GREAT THANKSGIVING (Spoken)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ SANCTUS (Sung)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

▲ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

▲ LORD'S PRAYER

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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us for evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

▲ AGNUS DEI (Sung)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

▼ DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT

(Those who receive the Lord's Supper at their home congregation are welcome to join with us today.)

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN (Sung)

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.

He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

▲ COMMUNION BLESSING

▲ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (Spoken)

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

▲ BENEDICTION (Spoken)

May the God of peace fill you with joy and peace in believing. So that by the power of The Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

▲ CLOSING HYMN - "THAT OLD COUNTRY CHURCH" (Insert)

▲ CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER

▲ DISMISSAL (Spoken)

Grow in faith! Love God. Serve others. Share Christ. **Impact the world!**

POSTLUDE - KAREN WARNELL