

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

With Hymns of Victory

April 21 & 22, 2012

AS WE GATHER

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!

5:00 PRE SERVICE BELL ANTHEM *"Sweet Hour of Prayer"*

WELCOME

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #464 **"The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"**

(The Refrain is sung only at the beginning and at the end of the hymn)

(Please rise)

INVOCATION and OPENING VERSICLES

Pastor: In the name of the Father, the + Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

People: Death no longer has dominion over Him. *Romans 6:9*

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.

People: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People: He has put all things under His feet. *Matthew 28:7, Hebrews 2:7*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

All: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have not lived victorious lives in all things. We have indeed turned away from each other 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, and with the power of the Holy Spirit direct our lives so that we serve you in true faithfulness. Gracious God, grant us victory over all that oppresses us, and build your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. 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. 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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This Is the Feast"

Page 155

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

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

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

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

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

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of your Son you raised up the fallen world. Grant to your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness, and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ WORD +

FIRST LESSON Acts 3:11-21 (*Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.*) While the man 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: "Fellow Israelites, 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 completely healed him, as you can all see. "Now, fellow Israelites, 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 Messiah 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 Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

EPISTLE I John 3:1-7 (*St. John reminds us that we are God's children now.*) See what great 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 Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, 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. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

5:00 ANTHEM "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" St. Paul's Choir

10:30 ANTHEM "We Will Praise You" Jr. Choir

(Please rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 24:36-49 (*The Disciples are witnesses of the risen 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. 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 Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the 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."

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #481 "Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom"

SERMON "Prove It" Luke 24:36-49

10:30 THE PROFESSION OF FAITH of John L. Barber

(Please rise)

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*found on the back cover of hymnal*)

(Please be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

5:00 BELL ANTHEM "Because He Lives"

(Please rise)

PRAYERS

Pastor: 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 feast of victory may be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, April 25th is World Malaria Day. We pray for your blessing on the prevention of this terrible disease in areas affected, and upon those who are suffering from its effects. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for ourselves in this season of our Lord's great victory that we may truly be an Easter people all year long, radiating the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. We thank you for the happiness you give us through your gracious gifts. Today we celebrate with Michael, Sandy, John, Art and Dorothy. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized including: Ray, Dolores, Jerry, Gretchen, Lois, Joe, Samuel, those who grieve and remember loved ones, especially Elfrieda's family and Sharon. We pray for the unemployed and underemployed, the

chronically ill and shut-in, and all others who need your help. Bless them with your presence, gracious Father, that they may have a sense of victory in their lives and find strength, hope, and consolation for each day. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful God, we bless you for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. On this day we remember those no longer among us on earth, who have completed their earthly race and have won the final victory in Christ. Lead us to follow in their way, that we may rejoice together eternally at your table and in your mansions. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord + be with you always.

People: Amen.

HYMN

(Sung to Tune: #702 "My Faith Looks Up To Thee")

O Lamb of God, we pray: Take all our sins away---Our faith increase.
Have mercy on us all, Strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call And grant us peace.

(Text: Gregory J. Wismar. Copyright (c) 2011 CPH. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI License #1443048)

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

5:00 BELL ANTHEM

"In Christ Alone"

HYMN # 480

HYMN # 905

HYMN # 668

"He's Risen, He's Risen"

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

"Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You"

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Blessed are you, Heavenly Father, for you have once again fed and nourished us at your table through the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen us so that we may continue to be your victorious people who share your love with all people as we await your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN # 660 "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

Preacher

Pastor Bryan O'Connor

Lectors

Manley Hurst, Virginia Sell, Russell Hurst

Acolytes

Alex Igielski, Kacey Wozniak, Grace Kochiss

Organist

Roger Gottschalk

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller

Choir Director

Nancy Hoelke

Bell Choir Director

Jan Schneider

Jr. High Choir Director

Shannon Wiegert

Thank you Pastor O'Connor for the faith and love you shared with us these many months. Your service to the Lord and to St. Paul's has blessed us all.