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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Resurrection Affirmation

April 18, 2021



AS WE GATHER

“Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?” (Luke 24:38). These are questions our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ asked of His disciples in another resurrection appearance after that first Easter morning. They are questions that could also be asked of us numerous times in our daily lives as we face trouble and doubts. Yet as Jesus kept on appearing, He kept on showing them Himself, and more than that, He continued to teach and remind them that all that was written was fulfilled in and through Him. Though we cannot physically touch His hands and side, each time we gather, Jesus continues to speak to us, affirming His work, the Word fulfilled, and the worth of humanity for whom He came. Amid troubles and doubts, through Christ, we can “see what kind of love the Father has given to us” (1 John 3:1).

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Where Two or Three Are Gathered”

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 16:11b; 30:1–3*

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

Leader: I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up
People: **and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

Leader: O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.
People: **O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION 1 John 3:1; Psalm 30:4–5; 16:11b

Leader: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” Gracious Lord, by Your name You have called us Your own children, and we are to pray, praise, and give thanks to You.

People: Yet we often choose not to see the love You have given to us, letting other things of this world impede our vision of Your mercy and grace in Christ. We do not always live as You have called us to be as Your children.

Leader: We confess our sins to God in repentance, turning from those things that lead us away, turning back to You in the love You’ve shown.

Silence for reflection.

Leader: Almighty and ever-compassionate Lord,

People: we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess our many failures as we have not followed You joyfully and trustingly. We have not loved others as You have first loved us, and our thoughts, words, and deeds have not been pleasing to You. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

Leader: Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints,

People: and give thanks to His holy name.

Leader: For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.

People: 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.**

Leader: In Your presence there is fullness of joy;

People: at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Leader: “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” 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. As His children, may He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a renewed life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE “Thine Be the Glory”

SALUTATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: 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.**

FIRST READING *Acts 3:11–21* (Peter preaches salvation through Christ.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,
He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
He has put all things under His feet.

EPISTLE *1 John 3:1–7* (We are God's children now.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32*

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.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:36–49* (Amid disciples' doubts, the resurrected Christ affirms the fulfillment of God's Word.)

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

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

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: **Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

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

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Leader: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. As Your children, You have given us a perfect love to see Your Son, Jesus Christ, in His humble birth, perfect life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection, by which You give us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *(p. 961 in hymnal)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Blessed are You, almighty God, for You sent Your Son into this world to rescue us and make for Yourself an everlasting kingdom and through Your perfect love have given us all we need through the all-availing sacrifice of Christ's body and blood on the cross. In Him, Your love is complete and applied to us as Your children. Enable and equip us with faithful hearts to follow in faith, and grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us to do in His own testament. Receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My

✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Leader: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **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.**

PAX DOMINI

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done” #464

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” #637

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN “Be Thou My Vision”

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Holy Communion is shared on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.