

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 4th, 2025 – 10 AM

WELCOME



The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

✠ Preacher – The Reverend Diane Burkland

✠ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

God gave God's only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of death. Mindful of God's immense love and grace, let us humbly confess our sins.

Almighty God, **in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We many times overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we often are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we every so often despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

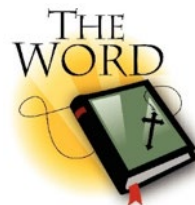
OPENING HYMN: ELW#392 - Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Prayer of the Day - Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-20

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.



⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 30

¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

² **O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.**

³ You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴ **Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance.**

⁵ God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime. Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

⁶ **While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.**

⁷ You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains." Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

⁸ **I cried to you, O LORD; I pleaded with my Lord, saying,**

⁹ "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"

¹⁰ **Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; O LORD, be my helper."**

¹¹ You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹² **Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of John 20:19-31; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – The Reverend Diane Burkland

"I Doubt It"

HYMN: ELW#592 – Just As I Am, without One Plea

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✠ We recognize those joining us via FaceBook Live, and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud; with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness and grace, receive these gifts we offer. Grant that our whole lives may give you glory and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus the Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages, to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He fulfilled all your will. He stretched out his hands in suffering, in order to free from suffering those who trust in you. As he was born to die, you raised him from death to life, so that we too know that we shall be raised from death to life.

We therefore remember that he took bread, and after giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And in the same way, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. And unto that time, we come before you praying;



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.

Invitation to Communion – Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN 1: Glory to the Lamb

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb.
Glory, glory, glory to the Lamb. Chorus | 3 Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb. Chorus |
| 2 Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb.
Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb. Chorus | CHORUS:
For He is glorious and worthy to be praised,
The Lamb upon the throne;
And unto Him we lift our voice in praise,
The Lamb upon the throne. |

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COMMUNION HYMN 2: There is a Redeemer

1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Chorus
2. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.
Chorus
3. When I stand in glory, I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.
Chorus

Chorus

Thank you oh my Father,
for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit 'til,
The work on earth is done.

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Closing Prayer - Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

Blessing - The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: ELW#389 – Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Song of Blessing

May God's blessing surround you each day,
As you trust God and walk in God's way.
May God's presence within guard and keep you from sin,
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

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Dismissal: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Barnegat Light NJ