"Growing God's Kingdom"



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 14th, 2024

Messiah Lutheran Church

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

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TODAY'S INTRODUCTION: The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 Church Office: 717-436-6213

Rev. Samuel Leister Bob St. Clair Slone Smith Andrea Cameron Marina Holderman Evan & Grace Miller Hope Miller, Carter & Hannah Ehrisman Communion/Offering Presenters Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 14, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK Julia Martin

PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN

"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

#383 Green Hymnal

Pastor

Lector Acolytes

Organist/Pianist Organist/Pianist

Choir Director

Altar Guild

- **GREETING**
 - P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
 - C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
 - P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
 - C And also with you.
- KYRIE (C sung)
 - P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
 - C Amen.

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE ("Lord God, Heavenly King" -- In Unison)



- * SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)
 - P The Lord be with you.
 - C And also with you.
- * PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)
 - P Let us pray...
 - C Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

²"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed. ⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.

⁷You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹See what love the Father has given 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. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

- L: Here ends the reading.
- C: Thanks be to God.
- * GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (In Unison)

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

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

- * GOSPELLuke 24:36b-48
 - P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.
 - C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

CHILDREN' SERMON SERMON Pastor Sam Leister Pastor Sam Leister

- * HYMN OF THE DAY "Children of the Heavenly Father" #474 Green Hymnal
- * NICENE CREED (In Unison)
 We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance

with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- P God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- * PEACE
 - P The peace of Christ be with you always.
 - C And also with you.

(The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord from their pews at whatever level of physical contact with which they are comfortable).

ANTHEM

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')



* OFFERING PRAYER

- P Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
- C Amen.

MEAL

- COMMUNION DIALOG
 - P Let us give thanks to the Lord.
 - C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.
 - P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.
 - C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.
 - P Let us come to his table with joy.
 - C for we come as God's invited guests.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfullness endures from age to age.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, 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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.
- C Come, Holy Spirit.
- P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- C Come, Holy Spirit.
- P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
- C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

C 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.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in the front of the chancel).

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

* LAMB OF GOD (sung)

C 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

["At The Chancel Rail" – come forward by the CENTER aisle; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Approach the altar to partake, then move to the chancel rail to pray. Then, return to your seat using the left or right SIDE aisle]. (Fellowship cups are available for those who wish to remain in your seat for communion)

* COMMUNION BLESSING

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.
- C Amen.

SENDING

- * BLESSING
 - P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
 - C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
 - P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.
 - C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)
- * SENDING HYMN

"I Love to Tell the Story"

#390 Green Hymnal

- * DISMISSAL
 - P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
 - C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Andrea Cameron

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Harrison & Haley Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS - Olivia Mummah, Braedon Walton & Evan Miller

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed (4/8/24 – 5/5/24)

NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Jean Berry

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Slone Smith & Tammy Brackbill April 21: Marylou Hazard & Clint Miller

April 28: Don & Barb Geedey

WELCOME TO ALL!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshiping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

JUST A THOUGHT – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor, Theologian & Martyr (1906 – 1945): The responsible person seeks to make his or her whole life a response to the question and call of God.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY</u> NOON.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Pastor Leister at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for <u>one month</u>. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u>. If you have anyone who is a "last minute" addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not "overbooked" in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email mlchurchoffice@gmail.com for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Pastor Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Pastor Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER is providing church leaders for the future. Over the past 60 years, many of the Camp Mount Luther summer staff has moved on to church-related careers or fields of study.

THE GOAL OF THE "FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE" Capital Campaign is \$1.6 to \$2 million. Our congregation's goal is \$7,500.

KATE SWAILES will be serving as our congregation's camperson with Camp Mount Luther again this year. This year's summer camp season at Camp Mount Luther will begin on June 23 and run until August 2. There are programs for all ages from elementary to senior high, and for adults and families. If you're looking for a place where your child can grow in faith and have fun doing it, Camp Mount Luther is that place. If you have any questions about camp, you can contact Kate or the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. The camp brochures are available on the Camp Mount Luther site www.campmountluther.org and brochures will be mailed to campers who attended camp in the past. Submit your camp registration form to Kate along with a \$50 payment payable to Messiah Lutheran Church which will go toward the non-refundable deposit. You can also register online and provide the \$50 payment to Kate. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fundraising events, donations, etc. Kate will submit the registration forms to Mount Luther.

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

BIBLE STUDY WILL CONTINUE on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. We will be studying the book of Revelation from Augsburg publishers. Anyone is welcome to attend.

APRIL'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will continue to be for Camp Mount Luther. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Camp Mount Luther to continue assisting in their children's ministries and restoration project. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES ARE NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2024 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly (date to be announced). If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Leister or the church office. PPC will approve the 2 delegates at their January meeting.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS, please contact Sheree Goss at 717-436-9613 or email her at msgoss@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday - 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
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WOMEN OF THE ELCA

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS are being collected for Shelter Service, Inc. in Lewistown:

--Laundry Detergent
 --Shaving Cream
 --Shampoo
 --Dryer Sheets
 --Deodorant
 --Body Wash

Please place items in the Adult Sunday School Room in the container provided.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA Spring Day of Learning will be held on April 27th at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mifflinville. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Barb Geedey or Linda Leister. The program will be a presentation on the Holy Land. Cost is \$15.00 and lunch is provided.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, CLEANING SUPPLIES, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, ALL PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, PAPER TOWELS, CASH/CHECK DONATIONS AND LOCAL STORE GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.

-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.

Monday: -5:00 p.m., Lion's Club meeting in Fellowship Hall.

-6:30 p.m., Knitters in Junior Church Room.

-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.

Tuesday: -10:30 a.m., Bible Study.

Wednesday: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.

-7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal.

Thursday: -7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, JCPARS in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.

-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.

-10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.

PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik Jeremy Barnes Ryan Barr Donna Barton Linda Brouse Andrea Cameron Terry Coder Heather Compton Rob Davis Fred & Dot Dowling Seth Dowling Kim Dumais Freda Durio Cathy Dysinger Renee Dzikowski Kathie Eichenberger Rev. Jodi Ellis Neil & Pat Fisher Kevin Fetterhoof Bentley Fulkroad Terri Gayer Deb Geedev Bob & Eddi Kay Gill

Sheree Goss Sylva Grimm Fred Gross Hannah Hart Marylou Hazard John (Pat) Henry Nox Hepburn Judy Hosler Nancy Howell Erin Husler Terry Imes Annie Ingle Guy Kerstetter Jesse Kint Carlen McClure Alice McClure Andi McDanel Cecilia Miller Curt Miller Larry Miller Shirley Miller Claire Mummah

Ron & Linda (Kerchner)Parks Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine Betty Ranck Keith Ranck Dave Reed Diane Rowles Kelley Rusenko Arlene Shearer Joyce & Todd Spangler Donna Stoner Barry Strawser Vicki Suoja Tonya Tabb Molly Ulsh George Varner Doug & Marsha Wagner Roscoe Warner Mary Jane Williamson Jim & Heidi Woltman Gary Zeiders Paul Zeiders George Zimmerman Linda Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Donna Parks

- --Jane Marhefka Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Room 221, Mifflintown, PA 17059
- --Ray Bramm Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094
- --Ruth Cisney Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 112, Thompsontown, PA 17094
- --Ona Stoner William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044