

BECAUSE  
HE LIVES

*We Can See Things Clearly*



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### **Third Sunday of Easter**

*Because He Lives  
We Can See Things Clearly*

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Gracious Holy Spirit, you come to us through your Word to create and strengthen faith. We thank you for your blessings in this past week and ask you to bless our praise today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Scripture often uses the concept of blindness as a metaphor for how hard it is to navigate life without a correct understanding of Christ. Spiritual blindness can take different forms, whether it's blindness to the truth of sin, hostility to the message of Jesus, or even rejection of God's love and will for sinners. No matter the form spiritual blindness takes, Easter has the power to replace it with sight. Easter allows us to see where we sinners stand with a holy God. Spiritual sight gives us the ability to see who holds our future in his hands and who is worth our eternal worship. Because he lives, we can see things clearly.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** It is easy to become so engrossed in the details of historical events—who, when, where—that we miss their significance. In this season of Easter, it is good we review the historical details that remind us that the resurrection of Christ is not fairytale or fable. Just as importantly, we celebrate Easter's significance. Jesus won! It is our privilege and pleasure to use the 50-day season of Easter to consider this truth: because He lives, not only is our eternity secure, but we have abundant resources to face the present.

**THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION:** The practice of confirmation is never mentioned in Scripture, but that doesn't mean it is without value. After 2-3 years of intensive study with parents and pastors, nine of our young members today confess their faith and vow before God and us to remain faithful to him. May God bless us all as we are reminded to encourage, admonish, and bless each other throughout our lives. May he bless them, and us, to continue to grow in grace and knowledge.

### ***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe      Organ: Robyn Stoller  
Sunday Musicians: Reformation Brass Ensemble

# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



## Hymn: Christ Is Our Cornerstone

CW 914

1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, on him a - lone we  
2 Here may we gain from heav'n the grace which we im -  
3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise these hal - lowed courts shall

build; with his true saints a - lone the courts of  
plore, and may that grace, once giv'n, be with us  
ring; our voic - es we will raise the Three in

heav'n are filled. On his great love our hopes we  
ev - er - more un - til that day when all the  
One to sing and thus pro - claim in joy - ful

place of pres - ent grace and joys a - bove.  
blest to end - less rest are called a - way.  
song, both loud and long, that glo - rious name.

*Please stand.*

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

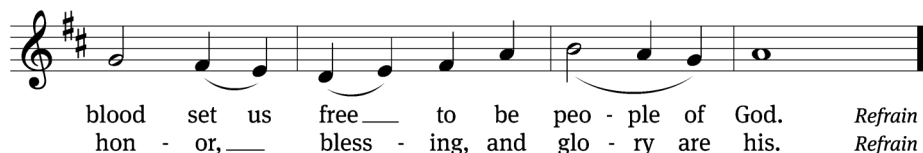
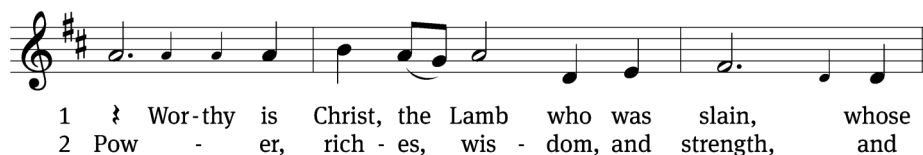
**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

## Glory Be to God: This Is the Feast

CW 938 sts. 1-2



M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness

of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## **First Reading**

Acts 9:1-22

*To get his attention, Jesus struck Saul blind. God not only restored Saul's physical sight, but gave him faith to believe in the risen Lord as well.*

<sup>1</sup>Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

<sup>5</sup>"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. <sup>6</sup>"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

<sup>7</sup>The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

<sup>10</sup>In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

<sup>11</sup>The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup>In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

<sup>13</sup>"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

<sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.

<sup>16</sup>I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

<sup>17</sup>Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup>Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. <sup>20</sup>At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. <sup>21</sup>All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” <sup>22</sup>Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **(Sunday) Choir Anthem: The First Song of Isaiah**

CW 810

*The congregation may join on the second and following refrains*

Ref Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.

1 Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing  
from the springs of salvation. And on that day you shall say,  
“Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.” **(Refrain)**

2 Make his deeds known among the peoples;  
see that they remember that his name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord for he has done great things  
and this is known in all the world. **(Refrain)**

3 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **(Refrain)**

## **Second Reading**

Revelation 5:11-14

*While in exile on the island of Patmos, St. John is given a special sight—he sees the sacrificial lamb who is worthy of our worship and praise.*

<sup>11</sup>Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup>In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!”

<sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”



from shore, about a hundred yards. <sup>9</sup>When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

CW 438



1	Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day,	Al - le - lu - ia!
2	Hymns of praise then let us sing,	Al - le - lu - ia!
3	But the pains which he en - dured,	Al - le - lu - ia!
4	Sing we to our God a - bove,	Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,	Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King,	Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured;	Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love;	Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross,	Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave,	Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's King,	Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host,	Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss.	Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save.	Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing.	Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.	Al - le - lu - ia!



*"God has a plan for you*

- 1) He calls us out of sin
- 2) He calls us into service

*Please stand after the sermon.*

## THANKSGIVING

### Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

*Be seated.*

### Hymn: Lord, Bless Your Word to All the Young

CW 762



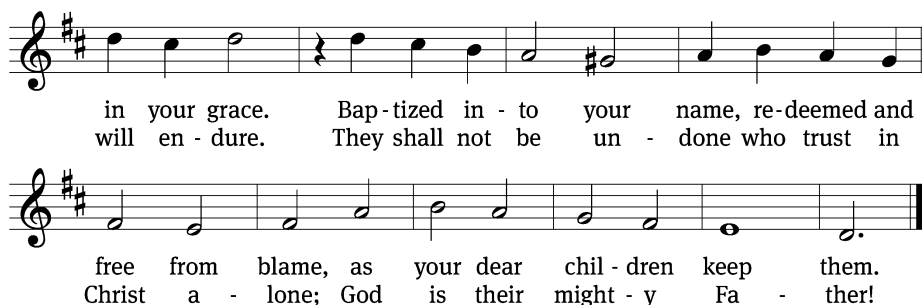
- 1 Lord, bless your Word to all the young; let them, your truth pos-
- 2 When faced with pres-sure, grief or pain, when Sa - tan comes al -



sess - ing, de - clare your praise with heart and tongue, their faith in  
lur - ing, may their bap - tis - mal grace re - main a ref - uge



Christ con - fess - ing. From birth your firm em-brace has held them  
re - as - sur - ing. God's prom - is - es are sure; his mer - cy



## (10:30am) Rite of Confirmation

**M:** My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and Word he created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's gospel. With this preparation you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring him to keep you faithful to him and his Word until you join us and all believers in the glories of heaven.

I now ask each of you:

**M:** Are you ready and willing to confess your faith before the triune God and those who are worshiping with you today?

**Confirmands:** I am.

**M:** Do you believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as we studied them and as we confess in the Apostle's Creed?

**Conf:** Yes, I believe in our gracious and Triune God.

**M:** Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**Conf:** I do reject him.

M: Do you believe that all the books of the Bible are the inspired and inerrant Word of God?

**Conf: I do.**

M: Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them from Luther's Small Catechism, are faithful and true to the Word of God?

**Conf: I do.**

M: Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus and his Word all the days of your life?

**Conf: Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

M: Is it your sincere prayer and desire to live a life that pleases God, to value his Word and sacraments, and to witness to your Savior wherever you go?

**Conf: Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

*The pastor speaks to the congregation:*

M: Friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another and especially for the youth of the church. On this special day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful to the Savior until we die. Let us pray.

M: Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Protect them from Satan when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, to make plans for this life and not for the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom love even after they have left our homes & made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us despite our sins and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior, who became sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*The pastor speaks to those being confirmed:*

M: I now invite each of you to come forward to receive a blessing from the Lord and a word of encouragement from the Scriptures.

*Those being confirmed approach the altar in turn and kneel. After they share their memorized confirmation verse, the minister lays his hand on the head of each and speaks a word of blessing from the Scriptures.*

*Matthew Everett Boerner*

*Matthew 28:19-20*

Parents: Wayne & Rachel Boerner

Born: April 4, 2011

Baptized: April 4, 2011

*Felicity Lowena Gumbrill*

*2 Timothy 3:14*

Parents: Jon & Naomi Gumbrill

Born: April 29, 2011

Baptized: August 14, 2011

*Kurah Victoria Hartsock*

*1 John 3:1*

Parents: Rob & Nancy Hartsock

Born: November 10, 2010

*Elijah Hunter*

*Psalms 121:8*

Parents: Shannon & Wendy Hunter

Born: August 3, 2010

*Luke John Onken*

*John 20:31*

Parents: Christopher Onken, Alisa Onken

Born: December 15, 2010

*Micah James Voss*

*Acts 4:12*

Parents: Mark & Tina Voss

Born: November 13, 2010

Baptized: November 28, 2010

### ***Reception Into Communicant Membership***

M: In the name of our Lord Jesus and as a called servant of Christ I welcome you as communicant members of St. John Lutheran Church and Salem Lutheran Church. I now invite you to partake of the sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's table as a *precious privilege* given you by God through His Church. Receive this sacrament thankfully and often.

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

## Offering



Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Please stand.

## Prayer

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Hymn: Go, My Children, with My Blessing

CW 930



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;  
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.  
I the Lord will smile up - on you and give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here his ten - der com - fort  
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and



ev - er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.  
glo - ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.  
Broth - er. Go, my chil-dren; I will keep you and give you peace.

## **Silent Prayer and Announcements**

### **(5pm & 8am) WELS Connection Video**

#### **Acknowledgments**

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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#### **Fellowship & Spiritual Growth**

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

#### **For Worship Next Week**

Worship theme: Because He Lives: We Know Jesus is Trustworthy and True

Bible Readings: Acts 13:15-16a, 26-39, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

Hymns: 551, 552, 471, 804

**Reformation Brass:** Reformation Brass is a volunteer ensemble of WELS and ELS musicians from the Twin Cities, featuring brass, organ, and timpani. Formed in 2000, the group performs at churches and WELS/ELS events throughout the area. We will collect a door offering after services this weekend to support their use of God's gifts for his people in our area. Donations support music, instruments, and minimal operating costs.

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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## *For our guests*

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

## *For those with young children*

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

