

Sebastopol United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 18, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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Seasonal Theme:

Alive and out of the grave, the Risen Christ is witnessed in the real world.

Theme for the Day:

Jesus is alive and with us, equipping us to be powerful witnesses.

Call to Worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Pastor: Answer us, O God, when we call; be gracious to us and hear our call.

People: **When we are in distress, you make space for us; you put gladness in our hearts, as with a fine feast.**

Pastor: When we are disturbed, may we not sin, but ponder things on our beds and be silent.

Unison: **I will both lie down and sleep in peace. For you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety. Amen.**

Centering and Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with me, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Holy God, we give you thanks that you often reveal yourself to be different from our expectations. We give you thanks for the love poured into our world through Christ Jesus, who opened our minds to understand what you have made, whose appearance among these followers brings peace, and creates faith through touch and taste. Come, Spirit, make yourself known with your words and in the grace and love we offer one another, and let us hear what you're saying. In the Risen Lord we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Acts 3:12-19** **1 John 3:1-7** **Luke 24:36b-48**

Message: **THE NEW BRAND OF RESURRECTION**

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

(please read along with me, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Generous God, you put love into human form in Jesus, who lived, died, and was raised to eternal life. Receive now these offerings, that your grace may live today through the work of your church. We, as the church, offer these gifts along with our time, our commitment, and our love, so that the world may witness without doubt that Christ is alive today. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Christ is alive in you and me. Go forth, and may the Lord bless you and keep you, and may He shine upon you with grace and mercy. Meet God's Spirit among friends, strangers, and in all of creation, every chance that you get.

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Scripture Readings – April 18, 2021

first reading – ACTS 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he 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? The 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. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And 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. "And now, friends,

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

second reading – 1 JOHN 3:1-7

See 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. Beloved, 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. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

third reading – LUKE 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look 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." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then 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." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

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Thank you for joining us in worship today.

SEBASTOPOL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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