

AS WE GATHER: God's children are refreshed in the forgiveness of Christ. Through His Word, our sins are blotted out. This is God's love for us – in Christ, we are called children of God. The very wounds of Jesus confirm His grief, His sacrifice, and His death, just as was foretold by God's prophets in Old Testament times. Christ's resurrected presence with His disciples leaves no room for doubt. Now the Good News of repentance, forgiveness of sins, and Christ's refreshing & restoring work is declared boldly in His saving name!

In our Sunday morning services this weekend we will especially celebrate the Lord's work through Sioux Falls Lutheran School. We will hear a song from the school children (8:00 a.m.) and several faculty and staff members will be participating in the services. We thank all of the school families, students, and teachers who have joined us for worship this weekend!

OPENING HYMN: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" LSB 457

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: He is the author of life

People: whom God raised from the dead.

Pastor: He puts joy into our hearts

People: and lifts the light of His face upon us.

Pastor: He has lavished us with love

People: and called us His own children.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION *Ps. 124:8; Luke 18:13; Jer. 31:34b; John 20:19-23*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: We know that Jesus came in order to take away sins, yet we often act in ignorance and doubt. We often are often angry with or bothered by God's plans and actions in our world when we have no right to do so. As we draw near to the glory of the risen Christ, let us first consider our sins, and our unworthiness to approach His presence.

(Silence for reflection and prayer)

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we have often walked in doubt and fear. We have failed to live in righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. We hear Your call to repent. For the sake of the risen Christ, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we follow in His footsteps both now and when He returns in glory. Amen.

Pastor: If Christ had not been raised from the dead, we would still be dead in our trespasses and sins, but Christ rose from the grave, and death no longer has dominion over Him! God has called You His children and that is what You are! As a called and ordained servant of the risen Christ and by His authority, I forgive your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We wait for Christ's return and the restoring of all things. Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 4 (selected verses)

Pastor: Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

People: You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

Pastor: O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?

People: How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?

Pastor: But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;

People: the Lord hears when I call to him.

Pastor: There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?"

People: Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!"

Pastor: You have put more joy in my heart

People: than they have when their grain and wine abound.

Pastor: In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

People: for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

ALL: 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.

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: and also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, through the resurrection of Your Son, You began the restoration of all things.

Enliven Your people with the joy of repentance that is ours as Your beloved children; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN: "God Loves Me Dearly" LSB 392

FIRST READING: Acts 3:11-21 (Peter preaches God's Law and Gospel.)

Lector: ¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹² And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷ "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SFLS CHOIR (8:00 a.m.)

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

Lector: ¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

VERSE: Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32

Pastor: Alleluia! We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

People: 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 (*The Risen Christ visits His disciples.*)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴ 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (*Sunday*)

SERMON HYMN: "We Are Called to Stand Together" LSB 828

SERMON: "Christ Restores All Things" (Acts 3:19-21)

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

(*as found in the inside, back cover of hymnal*)

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

We greet one another with the peace of the Lord. Please also mark your attendance in the maroon pad in your pew.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG: “Lord, I Need You” (solo on Sunday)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYER:

Pastor: Let us pray.

ALL: Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshipped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until Christ returns to restore all things and grant us everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord” LSB 853

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