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**3rd Sunday of Easter, April 18, 2021 Holy Communion**[[1]](#endnote-1)

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Good morning. I’m Pastor Brian, here at Richfield Lutheran Church, in south Minneapolis. With us today are Paul on the organ and Mary as our vocalist.*

*Today is the 3rd Sunday of Easter. Our gospel is Luke 24:36-48. 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.*

*Today we celebrate this very real gift of holy communion. You are invited to receive; please have bread and juice (or something comparable) ready.*

**I. GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Gathering Hymn *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* # 367, vv 1 -2**

1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds

 in praise of love that still abounds:

 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

 Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

 Repeat their song of glory here:

 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Eternal is the gift he brings,

 therefore our heart with rapture sings:

 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

 Now still he comes to give us life

 and by his presence stills all strife.

 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**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.**

**II. WORD**

**Gospel: Luke 24:36-48** *(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.)*

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

36bJesus 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** *See Me*Pr Brian

**Hymn of the Day *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* # 579, vv 1 & 3**

1 Lord, you give the great commission:

 "Heal the sick and preach the word."

 Lest the church neglect its mission,

 and the gospel go unheard,

 help us witness to your purpose

 with renewed integrity:

*Refrain*

 With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us

 for the work of ministry.

3 Lord, you make the common holy:

 "This my body, this my blood."

 Let us all, for earth's true glory,

 daily lift life heavenward,

 asking that the world around us

 share your children's liberty: *Refrain*

**III. MEAL**

**Offering Prayer**

*You can support this and other of God’s ministries through Richfield Lutheran Church today through our website, Richfield dash Lutheran dot org. Thank you for your generosity.*

*Let us pray.*

**God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Words of Institution**

In the night….

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.**

**Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion**

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

**Distribution**

**Prayer after Communion**

Having received Jesus’ very body and blood, we pray.

**Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**IV. SENDING**

*Join us here next week for Good Shepherd Sunday, when our gospel reading will be John 10:11-18. In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.*

*Until then, go forth with God’s blessing.*

**Blessing**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life—Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit—bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing* # 389, vv 1 & 5**

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

 The cross stands empty to the sky.

 Let streets and homes with praises ring.

 Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring

 good news to this and every age,

 till earth and sky and ocean ring

 with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

**Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

1. [www.sundaysandseasons.com](http://www.sundaysandseasons.com). Copyright © 2021, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)