

# Third Sunday of Easter – April 26, 2020

(See 3<sup>rd</sup> page for our new “Virtual Bulletin”)



## Greeting & Prayer of the Day

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!**

A: ... O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread.

Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

### Verse 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.

### Verse 2

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.

### Verse 3

In ev'ry insult, rift and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

### Verse 4

Women and men, in age an youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

### Verse 5

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love and praise.

## Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

*The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.*

<sup>17</sup>If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. <sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene, two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” <sup>19</sup>He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon – Pastor Paul**

### **Prayers of Intercession & Sign of the Peace**

#### **Lord’s Prayer / Final Announcements / Blessing**

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### **Dismissal**

A: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

#### **Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)**

**Verse 1:** Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You; We turn to You; Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You; we long for You.

**Pre-Chorus:** 'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day. In Your presence all our fears are washed away.

**Chorus:** Hosanna, hosanna, You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises. Hosanna, hosanna, come have Your way among us. We welcome You here Lord Jesus.

**Verse 2:** Hear the sound of hearts returning to You; We turn to You. In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new; You make us new;

**Pre-Chorus:** 'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day. In Your presence all our fears are washed away.

**Chorus:** Hosanna, hosanna, You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises. Hosanna, hosanna, come have Your way among us. We welcome You here Lord Jesus.

**Pre-Chorus:** 'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day. In Your presence all our fears are washed away. (Washed away).

**Chorus:** Hosanna, hosanna, You are the God who saves us, worthy of all our praises. Hosanna, hosanna, come have Your way among us. We welcome You here Lord Jesus.

**Ending:** Hosanna, hosanna. (Sing twice)

*(see below for our new “Virtual Bulletin”)*



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*April, 2020*

**The April issue of the STAR is ready.** Copies are available in the Shooting Star box outside the church entry. Also check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) Dive in with us!!!** Make plans to join us at “Great Bible Reef” July 20<sup>th</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup> this summer! We need MANY volunteers in MANY areas ☺ There will be a meeting via ZOOM on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am for all volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Annie Slaubaugh at [annie.slaubaugh@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:annie.slaubaugh@bethlehemtc.org) so she can give you the sign-in info for ZOOM.

**Our next Jubilee service is scheduled for Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am.**

**The Annual Chili Cook Off** has been postponed to a later date. There will be no meal served after the Jubilee on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Pr Paul and the staff (Sharon, Phil, Annie and Barbara) pray that you are staying safe and healthy. We miss seeing you in person and look forward to being able to worship and have fellowship together.



**BLC has successfully conducted several important staff and committee gatherings and meetings on a web application called ZOOM (usable on almost ANY device), so we are trying it out with 2 new venues: brief Fellowship time after worship, and a mid-week Bible Study!**

**Fellowship Time will start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 10:40am, on Sundays.** We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.



To login to our Zoom ministry sessions, you will need to type into your web browser (or click on) the weblinks provided AND **you may need to have the ZOOM app installed on your smartphone, tablet, PC or Mac.** You can also "join the meeting" on the website [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)

**On Wednesday, April 22nd, we launched our first attempt at "Zoom Bible Study."** We hope you were able to join us for this first session which lasted approximately 40 minutes. Starting Wednesday, April 29th, beginning at Noon, we will likely extend that bible study duration to about an hour and 15 minutes. In the coming weeks, I will be joined by staff members who will co-lead this study with me. Our subject matter will be "Luke and Acts," but *please note that you don't need to be a biblical scholar to join us.* In fact, much of our time might be just as social as it is theological. Just remember to install the Zoom software on your PC, Mac, table or smart phone before you visit the links with ID and Password provided. Like the Sunday Fellowship, the meeting ID and password will be mailed out the day before the Bible Study.