

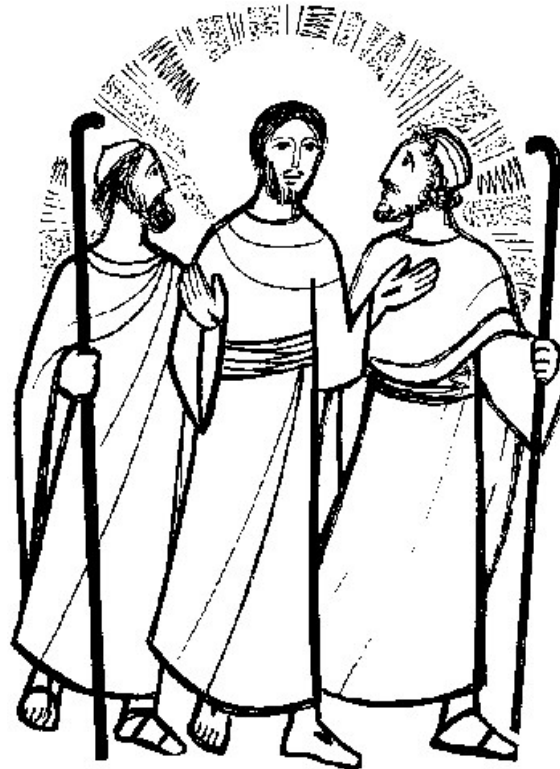


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# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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He Gives Us Certain Hope



APRIL 26, 2020

St. Matthew's Danube, St. John's Renville, and St. Matthew Flora Twp. MN (WELS)

St. Matthew Flora Twp. - St. Matthew's Danube - St. John's Renville (WELS)

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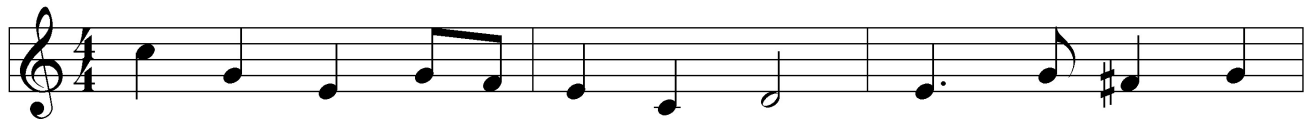
*Prayer Before Worship: Risen Lord, restore our hope. Lead us into your word, help us to see your gracious and ever faithful promises. Revive us and set our hearts on fire with your faithful love.*

Opening Hymn: "Alleluia! Jesus Lives" CW # 153

EASTER

153

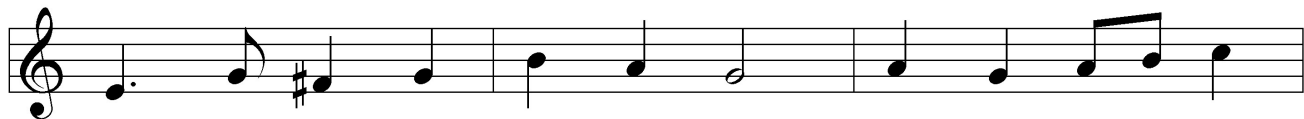
Alleluia! Jesus Lives



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus lives! He is now the  
 2 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice; Praise him, ran - somed  
 3 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and  
 4 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, Life is yours e -



liv - ing one; From the gloom - y house of death  
 ones of earth. Praise him in a no - bler song,  
 fre - quent sigh? He who died our broth - er here  
 ter - nal - ly; Joined to him, your liv - ing head,



Forth the con - quer - or has gone, Bright fore - run - ner  
 Cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth. Praise the Vic - tor -  
 Lives our broth - er still on high, Lives for - ev - er  
 Where he is, you too shall be; You with him at



to the skies Of his peo - ple, yet to rise.  
 King, whose sway Sin and death and hell o - bey.  
 to be - stow Bless - ings on his Church be - low.  
 his right hand Vic - tor o - ver death shall stand.

Text: Karl B. Garve, 1763-1841, abr.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-97, alt.  
 Tune: FRED TIL BOD (77 77 77) Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-87.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD – CW page 38

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

**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**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M:** 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**

### THE WORD

#### FIRST LESSON - *Acts 2:14a, 36-47*

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: <sup>36</sup> “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” <sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” <sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

*Psalm of the Day - Psalm 67 (CW page 91)*

**{Refrain}**

**Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.**

May God be gracious to us and bless us\*  
**And make his face shine upon us;**

May your ways be known on earth,\*  
**Your salvation among all nations.**

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,\*  
**For you rule the people justly and guide the nations of the earth.**

**{Refrain}**

**Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.**

Then the land will yield its harvest,\*  
**and God, our God, will bless us.**

God will bless us,\*  
**And all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

**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.**

**{Refrain}**

**Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.**

**SECOND LESSON - 1 Peter 1:17-21**

<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY (spoken by all)**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Our hearts were burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us. Alleluia. (Luke 24:32)**

## **THE GOSPEL - *Luke 24:13-35***

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." <sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. <sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

**Hymn: "This Joyful Eastertide" - CW # 160**

**[1] This joyful Eastertide**

**Away with sin and sorrow!  
My love, the Crucified,  
Has sprung to life this morrow.**

**{Refrain}**

**Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen:  
But now is Christ arisen.**

**[2] Death's flood has lost its chill**

**Since Jesus crossed the river;  
Lover of souls, from ill  
My passing soul deliver.**

**{Refrain}**

**Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen:  
But now is Christ arisen.**

**[3] My flesh in hope shall rest**

**And for a season slumber  
Till trump from east to west.  
Shall wake the dead in number.**

**{Refrain}**

**Had Christ, who once was slain,  
Not burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain:  
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen:  
But now is Christ arisen.**

### **Sermon Text: Psalm 67**

Rejoice and sing! Your hope is in our God.  
Trust the one who is faithful.  
Make his name known among the nations.

### **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.**

**Offering:** *Please mail in your offering to the church office as we continue to support the work of spreading the gospel throughout our community and the world.*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

God of all grace, we thank you for the gift of eternal life in your Son. By the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and by the faithful testimony of the apostles, you have assured us that our faith stands on a sure and solid foundation.

Though we do not see Jesus with our physical eyes, help us see him with the eyes of faith. Through your Holy Spirit, breathe on your Church that it may faithfully proclaim the gospel of our risen Savior with courage and diligence in all lands and to all people. Grant that we also may be illumined by the heavenly light of your Word, and so keep us in the one and only true faith.

Preserve us from all assaults on our souls, deliver us from doubt and despair, and preserve us from worldly wisdom and false teaching.

Forgive the sins of your people. Strengthen the doubting and the faithless. Bring back the forgetful and wayward and comfort the anxious and distressed.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

As we go about our lives as your holy people grant peace and rest to us all.

We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
    on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
    as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
    and the power and the glory  
    forever and ever. Amen.**

**M:** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
    Live in harmony with one another.  
    Serve the Lord with gladness.  
  
    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**



## **Closing Hymn: “With High Delight” – CW # 168**

**[1] With high delight**

**Let us unite  
In songs of sweet jubilation.  
You pure in heart,  
Each take your part part,  
Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.  
To set us free, Forever, he  
Is ris'n and sends To all earth's ends  
Good news to save ev'ry nation.**

**[2] True God, he first**

**From death has burst  
Forth into life, all subduing.  
His enemy Shall vanquished lie;  
His death has been death's undoing.  
“And yours shall be Like victory  
O'er death and grave,”  
Said he, who gave  
His life for us, life renewing.**

**[3] Let praises ring;**

**Give thanks and bring  
To Christ our Lord adoration.  
His honor speed  
By Word and deed  
To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.  
So shall his love Give us above,  
From misery and death set free,  
All joy and full consolation.**

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**Tune: Cinquante Pseaumes, Geneva, 1543, alt. | Public Domain**

## **Announcements** - View our website and like us on Facebook for updated announcements.

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to share the good news of Jesus with our community and the world. Thank you for your mailing your offerings into the church the office.

**St. Matthew's Danube**  
**PO Box 67**  
**Danube, MN 56230**

**St. John's Renville**  
**209 Bryant Ave NE**  
**PO Box 416**  
**Renville, MN 56284**

**St. Matthew Flora Twp.**  
**36313 Kenwood Ave**  
**Redwood Falls, MN 56283**  
*(temporary mailing address)*

Please contact or write to us with any questions, concerns, words of encouragement or prayer requests. God be with you, and God willing we will be able to meet together in God's house soon.

If you are in need of pastoral care and would like to have a visit over the phone please contact me. You can reach me either through my home number 320-826-2280 or cell phone 320-522-2428.

### **Important Notice Concerning Worship and Bible Class**

Worship Services at all of our churches have been suspended until further notice due to heightened health concerns. With the restriction on public gatherings due to the COVID-19 outbreak we will be making use of our online streaming services as our primary way to meet. For important announcements and other details about how to stay connected to your local congregation and to God's Word visit our website or follow us on Facebook.

### **Stay Connected Wherever You Are:**

Please make use of local radio, television, and online ministries as we are currently unable to gather in our local congregations.

#### **Television:**

- Watch *Time of Grace* at 10:30am on Kare 11 on Sunday mornings - visit [timeofgrace.org](http://timeofgrace.org) to learn more about Pastor Mike Novotny and other WELS pastors that contribute to Time of Grace and their varied resources.

#### **Radio:**

- Listen to St. John's Lutheran Church of Redwood Falls on 97.7 KLGR FM @ 8:00am Sunday mornings
- Tune in to Lutheran Chapel Services on KNUJ 97.3 FM or 860 AM @ 7:45 am Sunday mornings

**Online:** Join us for worship online in one of several ways visit [www.stmatthewsdanube.org](http://www.stmatthewsdanube.org) or Search for St. Matthews Danube on YouTube for recorded services and livestreaming or follow us on Facebook.

#### **Other Online Resources:**

- [wels.net](http://wels.net) - Daily devotions, (*new*) family devotions, and other bible study tools, updates and resources at our Synod's website. May God bless us as we walk together.
- [timeofgrace.org](http://timeofgrace.org) - on demand worship services, blogs, daily devotions, podcasts and bible study materials available
- [nph.net](http://nph.net) - order books, bible study and devotional materials, hymnals, Bibles, catechisms, and much more from the publication arm of our synod.
- [forwardinchrist.net](http://forwardinchrist.net) - WELS magazine now has on online presence. Stay connected with God's Word and your church body with news, updates, podcasts, videos, and more.

Share this information with neighbors, friends, relatives, and fellow members of our congregation as we put our hope and trust in the living God and make his name known among the nations and our communities.

### **Please Call, Email, or Text for Pastoral Support**

During this time of being unable to gather at our worship facilities we want to remind you that you can reach out to Pastor Kuschel for pastoral support. Be assured that Pastor Kuschel is praying for you and that he would very much welcome your call and a chance to talk to you and pray with you over the phone. Remember that we are his Church and God cares for his children wherever you are. *The LORD watches over you... He will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. - Psalm 121*

### **Miss Louisa Kahrs has accepted the Call to serve Little Lambs**

Miss Louisa Kahrs has accepted the Call to serve Little Lambs Learning Center as our next preschool teacher. We give thanks to God for the way that he care for his Church as he provides pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and others to carry out the gospel ministry. May God bless Louisa in this time of transition. We look forward to welcoming her in a few months. May God bless her work among us and may we be a blessing to her.

### **Thank you for your continued support**

We would like to thank our members for their continued support of our ministries especially during the last few weeks. May we continue to support one another and encourage each other all the more as we strive to share the good news of Jesus to our local communities and throughout the world.

### **Renville County COVID-19 Newsletter**

Renville County has been producing a COVID-19 Newsletter. Please follow the link to keep up to date with tips, suggestions, and news from the county. <https://www.renvillecountymn.com/newslist.php>