

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH L) Lord in your Mercy C) Hear our Prayer

SHARING THE PEACE L) The peace of Christ be with you all C) And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

“Come to the Table”

ELW #481

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.
All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed.
Come at the Lord's invitation; receive from his nail-scarred hand.
Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

HOLY COMMUNION (Continuous)

✠ Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer

✠ Distribution Hymns: All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly, #461

✠ Blessed Assurance, #638

✠ Blessing & Benediction

SENDING HYMN

“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

ELW #543

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”
- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”
- 3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

THE DISMISSAL L) Go in peace. Share the Good News. C) Thanks be to God!

Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches

Third Sunday of Easter – April 14th, 2024

Interim Pastor: Kent Stillson Organist: Lisa Rave (both churches)

PRELUDE

EASTER GREETING: L) Christ is Risen! C) He is risen, indeed!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: **“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”** ELW #385

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

FIRST LESSON Psalm 4 (Lay Reader)

L) Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause:

C) You set me free when I was in distress: have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

L) "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory:

C) how long will you have illusions and seek after lies?"

L) Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful:

C) the Lord will hear me when I call.

L) Tremble, then, and do not sin;

C) speak to your heart in silence up on your bed.

L) Offer the appointed sacrifices,

C) and put your trust in the Lord.

L) Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?"

C) Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.

L) You have put gladness in my heart,

C) more than when rain and wine abound.

L) In peace, I will lie down and sleep;

C) for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 3: 1-10

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. ³When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. ⁴Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸Jumping up, he stood

and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹All the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

L) *Word of God, Word of Life. All) Thanks be to God.*

SERMON –

"God Has Bigger Plans"

Pastor Kent

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Alleluia, Jesus Is Risen"

ELW #377 v1-4

- 1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise. Give God the glory! Alleluia!

- 2 Walking the way, Christ in the center telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

Refrain

- 3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches; life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people, gift of the future now flowing to me.

Refrain

- 4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent: death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open! Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.

Refrain

- 5 City of God, Easter forever, golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels, sing with creation to God the I AM!

Refrain