

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 23, 2023

Worship Focus

Let's Go.....Grow!

LET'S GO >>
>> TEACH, REACH, GROW

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Order of Service for THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Order of Service

The Service of the Word

✠ Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN

919 – Blessed Jesus, At Your Word



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word we are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, o - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



now to seek and love and fear you, by your teach - ings,
with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, while we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
God can win us; you must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

STAND

INVOCATION

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

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

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.

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.

Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE



Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.



Be seated



✠ The Word ✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 54:2

With God's blessing, Israel would grow in size and strength – a blessing we pray gifts to the hearts of God's people today.

ISAIAH 54:2 "Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.

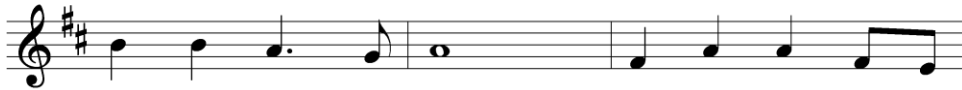
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 42



1 As the deer pants for the wa - ter, so my
2 You're my friend, and you're my broth - er, e - ven
3 I want you more than gold or sil - ver, on - ly



soul longs af - ter you; you a - lone are my
though you are a King. I love you more than
you can sat - is - fy. You a - lone are the



heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.
an - y oth - er, so much more than an - y - thing.
real joy giv - er and the ap - ple of my eye.

Refrain



You a - lone are my strength, my shield; to you a -



lone may my spir - it yield. You a - lone are my



heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.



SECOND READING

Acts 2:42-47

*Luke describes life in the New Testament church right after her birth on Pentecost.
It was a place for worship, fellowship, and growth.*

ACTS 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

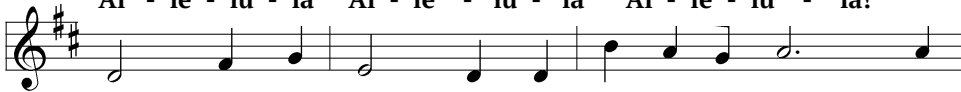
Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8

Stay connected to Jesus, because the growth we hope for is not only growth in numbers but also growth in faith as we remain connected to the Vine.

JOHN 15:1¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

909 – O Lord, Our God, Your Gracious Hand



1 O Lord, our God, your gra - cious hand has
2 For ev - 'ry earth - ly grace and gift we
3 We thank you, Lord, and sing your praise for
4 Your Word a - lone, great God of pow'r, can



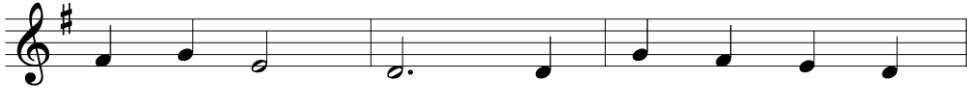
crowned our lives with bless - ing; your good - ness has en -
thank you, dear - est Fa - ther; now teach us, Lord, our
bless - ings you have giv - en; be with us still in
feed our soul and spir - it. Christ's love gives strength for



riched our land with gifts for our pos - sess - ing.
thoughts up - lift that heav'n - ly fruit we gath - er.
fu - ture days to guide our youth to heav - en.
ev - 'ry hour with - out our deeds or mer - it.



Our homes, our food, and ev - 'ry good for earth - ly
 Our fa - thers knew and kept in view true wis - dom's
 Lord, grant that we may clear - ly see the worth of
 Grant schools that teach and men who preach true Chris - tian



work and liv - ing, a - bun - dant wealth and
 worth and plea - sure; they prized as jewels their
 Chris - tian train - ing that youth may grow your
 ed - u - ca - tion; let youth grow strong by



life and health your faith - ful love is giv - ing.
 Chris - tian schools and left a last - ing trea - sure.
 love to know, e - ter - nal rich - es gain - ing.
 Word and song in ev - 'ry land and na - tion.

✘ **Sermon** ✘

Acts 2:47b

Lord, Grant an Increase!

1. that more might join OUR fellowship
2. that more might join YOUR fellowship

Sermon notes:

When the sermon is finished, please stand

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

Be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of
God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.*

Offerings can be given in any of four ways:

- *Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary*
- *On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>*
- *On your phone with the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app*
- *Scan the QR code to the right...*



*Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card, or by filling out
the card in the pew and placing it in the offering plate as you leave. The Connection
Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website,
<https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the code to the left..*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

You may remain seated for prayer

Dear Father in heaven, with your gift of a Savior you restored hope for our fallen world and brought glory to your name. We thank you for the good news that you have reconciled the world to yourself through your Son.

Be with us as you give us opportunities to proclaim your glorious name of salvation in Jesus Christ our Savior.

O Jesus, Lamb of God, we praise you for offering yourself as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all. On the cross you declared the sacrifice for sins completed. At the open tomb, you assured the world that sinners are reconciled to God.

Be with us as you have promised, so that we may be bold and confident witnesses to our family members and friends.

Holy Spirit, blessed Counselor, use your Word of Truth and power to break down the barriers to our witness, including fallen mankind's natural hatred for God and Satan's wicked work among us.

Empower us by your gospel, and encourage us to be faithful, fervent witnesses to the people among whom we live and work.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, send us by the power of your Word into the mission fields beyond the walls of our church. Give us hearing ears and seeing eyes that seize the opportunities you set before us to be your witnesses.

Guide us, strengthen us, and bless us as we declare Christ to our world. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

860 – In Christ There Is No East or West



1 In Christ there is no east or west,
 2 With God there is no tribe or race;
 3 So, broth - ers, sis - ters, praise his name
 4 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith,
 5 In Christ now meet both east and west;



in him no south or north, but one great fel - low -
 in him we all are one. He loves us as his
 who died to set us free from sin, di - vi - sion,
 what - e'er your race may be; who serves my Fa - ther
 in him meet south and north. All Chris - tian souls are



ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 chil - dren through our faith in his dear Son.
 hate, and blame, from spite and en - mi - ty!
 as his child is sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

Stand

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.



A - men.

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.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

751 – O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made



1 O God, your hand the heav-ens made and all that they con - tain;
2 To us are giv - en gifts di - vine, all tal - ents you have sent;
3 De - liv - er us from self - ish aims, true stew - ards we would be;



the world ap-peared at your com-mand, and in it now you reign.
in - spire us now to use them well your king-dom to ex - tend.
en - dow us with a deep de - sire to live un - self - ish - ly.



The rest - less sea, the land, the sky your hand-i - work de - clare;
We hold each gift a trust from you nor claim it as our own;
A full ac-count-ing we must give and see you face to face;



the touch of your cre - a - tive pow'r is pres - ent ev - 'ry - where.
we grate - ful - ly ac - knowl - edge, Lord, all things are yours a - lone.
let us ap - proach your throne with joy, sup - port - ed by your grace.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Hymn 919 – Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; Geistreiches Gesang-Buchlein, Berlin, 1707, st. 4;

Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, sts. 1-3, alt.; tr. Unknown, st. 4, alt.

Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673, alt.; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Scripture references: Lk 11:28; Jn 6:63-68; 1 Co 2:14; 1 Jn 5:11-13

Text and music: public domain

Psalm 42A

Text and tune: Martin Nyström © 1984 Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publ. (ASCAP)
(adm. at CapitolCMGPublishing.com)

Hymn 909 – O Lord, Our God, Your Gracious Hand

Text: Oliver Rupprecht, 1903-2000, abr., alt.

Tune: Enchiridion...zum Schwartzen Horn, Erfurt, 1527

Scripture references: Ps 78:1-7; Mt 6:19-21; Eph 6:4; Col 3:16

Text: © 1993 Dr. Oliver C. Rupprecht

Tune: public domain

Hymn 897 – Lord Jesus, You Have Come

Text: Eberhard L. Rischer, 1695-1773, abr.; tr. composite

Tune: Neu-vermehrtes...Gesangbuch, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Scripture references: 2 Co 4:1,2; Ac 20:25-32; 2 Co 5:18-21; 1 Ti 4:16

Text and music: public domain

Hymn 751 – O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made

Text: Frank L. Cross, 1904-2001

Tune: English; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, alt.

Scripture references: Ps 19:1; 33:6-9; Ps 24:1; Mt 25:14-30; 1 Co 4:2; 12:4-11

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