

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter, Year B

Celebration of Baptism of Aubree Jessica and Zoe Grace Reiss

Introduction

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 in communion. 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.

Order of Worship

Our order for worship today is a typical non-communion worship service with the addition of the service of Holy Baptism (Infant twins Aubree and Zoe will be baptized.) The order for baptism falls after the sermon and will be printed as a separate order inserted into the bulletin (blue paper was a good contrast last time, if available).

In the bulletin itself: put Order for Holy Baptism (see insert) after the Musical Offering that follows the Sermon.

The Peace will be a little "out of order" for the way we usually experience it. It will follow the Baptism, as it is a fitting end of that rite. The Prayers follow immediately afterwards, when the baptismal party is back at their seats, Pastor at the altar, and the person leading the prayers in place at the lectern.

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.

Readings and Psalm

[1 John 3:1-7](#)

The revealing of the children of God

[Luke 24:36b-48](#)

Eating with the risen Christ

Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-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.

^{36b}Jesus 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."

Prayers of Intercession

When you hear, "let us pray" you respond, "**Have mercy, O God.**"

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God as we pray for Zoe and Aubree, for all the newly baptized into Christ, for *their* parents and godparents, and for all the baptized everywhere...

A brief silence is held as we gather our prayers.

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death, let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and your truth,
let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church,
let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love,
let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory,
let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

Heavenly Father, Gracious God, you have given us such love that we should be called
your children. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of Grace may become
more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness,

let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant
to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and
wholeness. Be close to the hearts of the lonely,

let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank
you for their lives among us. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join
them in everlasting life

let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-
ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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