

Third Sunday of Easter, Year B

Color: White

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

* [Acts 3:12-19](#) (Through the risen Christ, health and forgiveness are extended)

[Psalm 4](#) (Confidence in God for joy and peace)

[1 John 3:1-7](#) (We are God's children now)

[Luke 24:36b-48](#) (The risen Christ eats with and teaches the disciples)

*During Eastertide a reading from Acts is substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible

Themes: Healing, Trust, Grace, Children of God, Communion, Resurrection

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the scriptures or themes of this service.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (CORONATION; DIADEM; MILES LANE)	Acts
Day of Arising (BUNESSAN; RAABE)	Luke, Communion
Fairest Lord Jesus (CRUSADERS' HYMN [ST. ELIZABETH])	1 John
Gather Us In (GATHER US IN)	1 John
Go, My Children, With My Blessing (AR HYD Y NOS)	1 John, Benediction
Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise (ASCENSION; LLANFAIR)	Luke
How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds (DOVE OF PEACE; ST. PETER)	Acts, 1 John
I Danced In the Morning (LORD OF THE DANCE)	Acts, Luke
Lead Me, Guide Me (LEAD ME, GUIDE ME)	Psalms
Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (LINSTEAD)	Psalms, Luke, Communion
Lord of All Hopefulness (COURTNEY; SLANE)	Psalms
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (BEECHER; HYFRYDOL)	1 John
Loving Spirit, Loving Spirit (OMNI DIE)	1 John
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (AZMON; BLESSED BE THE NAME)	Acts, Luke
There Is a Balm in Gilead (BALM IN GILEAD)	Psalms
Thine Is the Glory (MACCABEUS)	Acts, Luke
This Is My Father's World (TERRA BEATA)	1 John
To God be the Glory (TO GOD BE THE GLORY)	1 John

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

All Day Hymn (Lord of All Hopefulness) – E Psalms
SLANE/John Helgen, arr.
© 1996, Kjos Music, No. 8822
SATB, Keyboard, Flute

At This Table – ME.....Luke, Communion
Allen Pote
© 2006, Hope Publishing, C 5429
SATB, Keyboard, opt. Flute

Be Near to Me (Bist Du Bei Mir) – E Psalms
J.S. Bach/Russell Robinson, arr.
© 2008, Shawnee Press, D0747
SAB, Keyboard

Children of God Are We – M..... 1 John
Jonathan Behnke
© 2013, Concordia Publishing, 98-4132
2-Part (Any), Keyboard

God Is Here – M..... Luke
ABBOT'S LEIGH/Lloyd Larson, arr.
© 2009, Hope Publishing, C5588
SATB, Keyboard, Brass (5)

Halleluyah! We Sing Your Praises – M..... Luke
South African Traditional/Anders Nyberg, ed.
© 2003, Walton Music, WW1312
SATB, a cappella

I Am His Child – M 1 John
Moses Hogan
© 1999, Alliance Music, AMP-0349
SSA, Piano

Lord, Lead Us Day by Day – E..... Psalms
G.F. Handel/Hal H. Hopson, arr.
© 1978, Hope Publishing, HH 3908
Unison, Keyboard

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling – M 1 John
Ned Rorem
© 1966, Boosey & Hawkes, 9790051456505
SATB, a cappella

See What Love – M 1 John
Felix Mendelssohn (from *St. Paul*)
© 1960, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-4561-8
SATB, Keyboard

We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight – E..... 1 John
Michael D. Costello
© 2008, MorningStar Music, 50-5109
2-Part Mixed, Piano, opt. B^b or C-Instrument

– YOUTH and CHILDREN –

Child of God – ME..... 1 John
Mark A. Miller
© 2014, Choristers Guild, CGA1425
SATB, Solos, Piano

Sing and Dance, Children of God – E 1 John
Michael Bedford
© 1979, Hinshaw Music, HMC-379
2-Part, Piano

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*Now heaven's river drowns its banks,
and floods of joy have run abroad;
now mirth has spread from leaf to leaf,
and gladness without measure comes.*

– RABINDRANATH TAGORE, *The Heart of God*

+ + +

Since we must eat to live, we might as well do it with both grace and gusto.

– M.F.K. FISHER, *How to Cook a Wolf*

CENTERING

Inspired by Luke 24:36b-48

The resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples fully physical, fully present, and concerned with the things of this world.

The following offers an engagement of our bodies through a time of guided and mindful praying. A process of preparing for worship, it is an invitation to take a moment to center ourselves, remembering that we are part of a very real world in which God is very present.

Each of the paragraphs below provides suggestions a leader might use to awaken the imaginations and senses of the gathered people. Each "Selah" is intended as a generous pause for silence, before a blessing of peace.

Stand or sit planting your feet against the ground, sitting up as straight as your body will allow. Close your eyes. Take a deep breath in, filling your lungs to the top. Breathe out, completely emptying yourself, feeling the air pass through you. Feel the weight of your body against the earth. Wiggle your fingers and toes. This is your body — it is neither a mere vessel nor a curse, but your way of participating in creation. Focus on your body from head to toes. What aches and tension do you carry? What strengths do you feel?

Selah . . . Peace be with you.

Open your eyes, reengaging with the world around you. Gaze around you in all directions. If you cannot see, feel around your immediate space. What do you see or feel? What might go unnoticed were you not to take it in? For now, this space is your temple. It is where you worship and affect change. You can be nowhere else but here.

Selah . . . Peace be with you.

Listen softly, but with intention. What do you hear, even if it's nothing? What is happening in your immediate space? Do not block it out, but take it in. These sounds join the songs and prayers of this sacred time; let them remind you of your place in creation.

Selah . . . Peace be with you.

Finally, what smells or even tastes enter your body? Are they pleasant? Unpleasant? What memories do they conjure? What do they tell you about the here and now? Take in the incense of your surroundings, letting it find home within you.

Selah . . . Peace be with you.

As it has been written and continues to be revealed, God is not in the grave but with you even now. Your physical presence is testament to this. You are a witness of these things.

Peace be with you.

Amen.

— JD Granade*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Psalm 4 (VOICE)

The Eternal will answer our prayers and save us.

We entrust ourselves to the Eternal.

Answer our prayers, O True God, the righteous, who makes us right.

We were hopelessly surrounded, and You rescued us.

Once again hear us; hide us in Your favor;

bring victory in defeat and hope in hopelessness.

When disheartened we ask, "Who can show us what is good?"

**Let Your brilliance shine upon us, O Eternal One, that we may know
the undeniable answer.**

Fill us with joy! Let happiness rise in our hearts!

May great delight and unrivaled joy flow freely!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Oh God of mercy,

We celebrate the Risen Lord. We live in a world in which Your promise has been and continues to be fulfilled. We see Your work in this world, and earnestly hope to participate.

Yet, we fall short. We forget Your promise.

In Your presence, we respond out of fear and doubt. *(Luke 24:37-46)*

We put trust in human piety and act out of ignorance. *(Acts 3:12-17)*

We spread falsities in Your Name, and cling to lies for our own advantage.

We lack control, responding to disturbance with sin. *(Psalm 4:2-4)*

We lean into lawlessness, breaking Your commandments
of justice and love. *(1 John 3:4)*

We come to you humbly confessing whatever sins we carry with us.

[Silence is kept.]

Beloved, be at peace.

God is faithful to God's promises, fulfilling them each day. *(Luke 24:46-47)*

In Christ, you are made pure. *(1 John 3:3)*

Your sins are not merely forgiven, but wiped away! *(Acts 3:19)*

As children of God, abide in God,

knowing that you may rest at peace, forgiven. *(Psalm 4:8)*

Amen.

O God, who art peace everlasting, whose chosen reward is the gift of peace, and who has taught us that the peacemakers are Your children: pour Your peace into our hearts, that everything discordant may utterly vanish, and that all that makes for peace be loved and sought by us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—MOZARABIC SACRAMENTARY (7TH C.)

BENEDICTION

In this hour you have found strength and healing,
Grace and forgiveness,
Joy and peace,
An encounter with the Living God.
Go forward knowing that you are a child of God, fully loved.
Let this sustain you until we meet again,
and empower you to live Truth. Amen.

* Thanks to JD Granade for his contribution to this week's liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor