

## Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

### BEING Challenge – Week 2 – Keystone Habit – *Study Scripture*

#### ***PRELUDE, BELLS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME***

#### **“ WITH HIGH DELIGHT LET US UNITE” LSB 483**

- 1 With high delight  
Let us unite  
In songs of great jubilation.  
Ye pure in heart,  
All bear your 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  
Doth vanquished lie;  
His death has been death's undoing.  
“And yours shall be  
Like victory  
O'er death and grave,”  
Saith 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.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–99; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76

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#### **INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**      *Psalm 118:24; Romans 6:9; adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8*

P: This is the day that the LORD has made;

**C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P: Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

**C: death no longer has dominion over Him.**

P: Christ has risen from the dead.

**C: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.**

P: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

**C: He has put all things under His feet.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**C: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

P: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

**C: Amen.**

**HAVE MERCY ON YOUR PEOPLE, LORD**      *(sung to tune of LSB 733, O God, Our Help in Ages Past)*

1 Have mercy on Your people, Lord.  
Have mercy, Christ, our King.  
Renew us by Your mercy, Lord;  
Accept the prayers we bring.

Text: Dorothy Hoyer Scharlemann, 1912–2002

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

Living Lord, You have commanded us to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations. To fulfill this command, we ask You to clothe us with the power from on high, Your Holy Spirit, that we may carry the amazing message of Your resurrection to the ends of the earth; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Acts 3:11–21*

While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

"Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. (NIV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*1 John 3:1–7*

How great is the love the Father has lavished on 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.

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. (NIV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC - "*He's Alive*"

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 24:36–49*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (NIV)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **“SPEAK, O LORD, YOUR SERVANT LISTENS” LSB 589**

- 1 Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,  
Let Your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me,  
Let each promise still my fear.  
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,  
Wars against Your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor  
That I cling to You forever!
- 2 Oh, what blessing to be near You  
And to listen to Your voice;  
Let me ever love and hear You,  
Let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord,  
Flee in terror at Your Word;  
But to all who feel sin's burden  
You give words of peace and pardon.

3 Lord, Your words are waters living  
When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving;  
On Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light  
Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing  
And my cup of joy unailing!

4 As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;  
Let Your words in me take root.  
May Your Spirit e'er be near me  
That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing Your praise,  
From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given  
In the endless joy of heaven.

Text: Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638–83; (sts. 1–3): tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; (st. 4):  
tr. Christian Worship, 1993

Text and tune: Public domain

### **SERMON BEING Challenge – Keystone Habit - Study Scripture**

*Text: Luke 24:44-49*

### **OFFERING**

#### **“ THY WORD IS A LAMP” AGPS 247**

ref Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path.

1 When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,  
Still You're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.  
Please be near me to the end. Refrain

2 I will not forget Your love for me, and yet  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;  
And I will love You to the end. Refrain

Text: Amy Grant

Tune: *Thy Word* Michael W. Smith CCLI Song #14301 CCLI License # 671043

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the whole church, that the message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world and the forgiveness of sins be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for the nations of the world, that governments would be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms may be hindered, bringing a sense of security and well-being in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for ourselves in this amazing season of our Lord's great victory that we may truly be Easter people all year long, radiating the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel. Also, we remember at this time the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or at home with illness, those who grieve, the chronically ill and shut-in, [*especially . . .*], the unemployed and underemployed, and all others whose needs are known to us. Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they may have a sense of purpose in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Merciful God, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. We remember those no longer among us on earth, who have completed their earthly races and are at rest, awaiting the resurrection and our final and full victory in Christ. Lead us to follow in their way, that we may rejoice together eternally with saints and angels. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer. 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.**

#### **BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

#### **"ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS CAST" LSB 577**

1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.

- 2 Let not the sly satanic foe  
This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev'ry heart  
To bring forth fruits of love.
- 3 Let not the world's deceitful cares  
The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold  
The fruits of peace and joy.
- 4 So when the precious seed is sown,  
Life-giving grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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