

CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP
3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER **APRIL 18, 2021**

GATHERING MUSIC AND WORDS OF WELCOME

Thank you for masking and continuing to keep distance.

PRELUDE AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

CALL TO WORSHIP

How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God's love!

We are called to be Easter people!

Darkness cannot claim us! **Fear cannot bind us!**

We are called to be God's children.

God's love has been poured on us through Jesus Christ!

Fear and doubt are gone!

Let us offer our hearts and souls to God in prayer and praise

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

HYMN OF CELEBRATION

Alleluia

#162

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you chased the gloom of the disciples with the gospel of Easter. You drowned their desert of despair in a sea of grace. Surprise us this day. Take from us our presumption as we lean on our strength instead of yours. Forgive us when we mistake our wisdom for yours.

Assure us once again that our Lord's promise to be with us always still holds good. Be present with us now, as in the days of Jesus, to make us whole and to make us holy. **Amen**

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY

Luke 24:36b-48

MORNING REFLECTION

Touch and See

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Lead Me, Lord

Lead me, Lord, lead me in your righteousness, make your way plain before my face.

For it is you lord, you Lord only, that makes me to dwell in safety.

DEDICATION OF TITHES, GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Mighty God who brings life and hope out of death and despair, help us hear the invitation Christ offered to the disciples, "Touch me and see!" Make us bold to grab hold of the risen Christ – not for this day but for all our days. May we offer our gifts this morning not to the church historical—the church that was—but to a church that is becoming, that is still being born, that Christ will bring into the future. May our eyes and ears and hearts continue to hold on to him as we help Christ lead his church forward! We pray together as Jesus taught

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN OF SENDING

Christ is Risen

#307

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.*

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. *Refrain.*
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth
Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain.*
3. We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. *Refrain.*
4. Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Savior. *Refrain.*

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna!

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!