

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 15, 2018



THE LESSON Acts 3:12-19

¹²Seeing this, Peter addressed the people: “You Israelites, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us as if we made him walk by our own power or piety? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of our ancestors—has glorified his servant Jesus. This is the one you handed over and denied in Pilate’s presence, even though he had already decided to release him. ¹⁴You rejected the holy and righteous one, and asked that a murderer be released to you instead. ¹⁵You killed the author of life, the

very one whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶His name itself has made this man strong. That is, because of faith in Jesus’ name, God has strengthened this man whom you see and know. The faith that comes through Jesus gave him complete health right before your eyes.

¹⁷“Brothers and sisters, I know you acted in ignorance. So did your rulers. ¹⁸But this is how God fulfilled what he foretold through all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. ¹⁹Change your hearts and lives! Turn back to God so that your sins may be wiped away.”

THE RESPONSE Psalm 4

Answer me when I cry out, my righteous God! Set me free from my troubles! Have mercy on me! Listen to my prayer!

²How long, you people, will my reputation be insulted? How long will you continue to love what is worthless and go after lies?

³Know this: the LORD takes personal care of the faithful. The LORD will hear me when I cry out to him.

⁴So be afraid, and don’t sin! Think hard about it in your bed and weep over it!

⁵Bring righteous offerings, and trust the LORD!

⁶Many people say, “We can’t find goodness anywhere. The light of your face has left us, LORD!”

⁷But you have filled my heart with more joy than when their wheat and wine are everywhere!

⁸I will lie down and fall asleep in peace because you alone, LORD, let me live in safety.

THE EPISTLE 1 John 3:1-7

See what kind of love the Father has given to us in that we should be called God’s children, and that is what we are! Because the world didn’t recognize him, it doesn’t recognize us.

²Dear friends, now we are God’s children, and it hasn’t yet appeared what we will be. We know that when he appears we will be like him because we’ll see him as he is. ³And everyone who has this hope

in him purifies himself even as he is pure. ⁴Every person who practices sin commits an act of rebellion, and sin is rebellion. ⁵You know that he appeared to take away sins, and there is no sin in him. ⁶Every person who remains in relationship to him does not sin. Any person who sins has not seen him or known him.

⁷Little children, make sure no one deceives you. The person who practices righteousness is righteous, in the same way that Jesus is righteous.

THE GOSPEL Luke 24:36-48

³⁶While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ³⁷They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

³⁸He said to them, “Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts?” ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It’s really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn’t have flesh and bones like you see I have.” ⁴⁰As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, “Do you have anything

to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of baked fish. ⁴³Taking it, he ate it in front of them.

⁴⁴Jesus 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 from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. ⁴⁶He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

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