

women who said Jesus was no longer in the tomb. All the prophecy, all the proof, all the evidence doesn't do anyone any good unless we give up our doubts and fears. Until we are willing to repent of our need to be in control of what we will believe, we cannot be touched by the faith God gives so willingly to all. Jesus spoke of Himself from the Words of Genesis and wandered all the way through to the last of the prophets in an effort to explain to the two disciples that He had to die and rise again. According to Luke, they did not understand that Jesus had to rise from the dead. He not only gave them those details, He wrapped up the entire life of the Messiah, but notice that it doesn't work for them until He blessed the bread. Finally their faith was made complete.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

℟ O Lord God, heavenly Father, Who is mighty in power and infinite in majesty, Who has created the Heaven and Earth and cares for each of them in their own special needs. We ask that You incline Your ear to us, and in Your wonderful mercy hear us.

We give thanks to You, everlasting God, that You glorified Your Son Jesus in His Resurrection from the dead. After He had offered Himself as the Priest and the Sacrifice for all the world, He laid Himself on the altar of the cross. He died to reconcile sinners to You. Grant us the blessings of His infinite grace and inexhaustible Love.

We praise You that You transformed the "little while" of the crucifixion sadness and defeat into the joy and victory of the Resurrection. Help us lay hold of Christ's promise of eternal life, and receive it in joy. Give us the glorious consolation by a true and living faith. Grant us the expectation and assurance that our eyes will yet behold Him, when, according to Your promise, our Redeemer will again stand on the Earth, and receive all who believe in Him into the kingdom prepared from the beginning of the world. Give Your Church the knowledge of the wonder of the empty tomb, and let us be the ones who proclaim this wonder to the world.

Give the comfort of Your promises to; the sorrowful, the brokenhearted, the sick and the perplexed. Cast out from our hearts all fear of death and the unknown. Instill in us patience in every adversity, and enable us to receive Your blessings in love and gratitude.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

O Father, grant us such a measure of Your grace that we resist all evil, fight the good fight of faith, and in the end receive the victor's crown of life. We ask this all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, the Lamb upon the throne.

© Amen.

EASTER THREE

Chant Tone



Introit

Behold, how good and plea | sant it is*
when brothers dwell in | unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard, on the
beard of — Aaron,*

running down on the collar | of his
robes!

It is like the dew of Hermon, which
falls on the mountains of — Zion!*

For there the Lord has commanded
the blessing, life for | evermore.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

Behold, how good and plea | sant it is*
when brothers dwell in | unity!

(Antiphon, Psalm 133:1;
Psalm 133:2-3)

Collect of the Day

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Christ has risen | from the dead*

[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and — honor,
You have given Him dominion over the works | of Your hands;*
You have put all things un | der His feet.

(Adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: You have searched us and know us, O Lord, such knowledge is too wonderful for us to understand, for this we adore Your most Holy name. We are grateful for the accounts of witnesses who saw the Resurrected Lord with their own eyes and touched Him with their own hands. Because He rose from the dead, we can now have fellowship with You, with Him, and with one another. Open our minds that we may know Your will, and clothe us with power from on high to help us proclaim Your promises to all the people of the world. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord and Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE APOSTLE PETER WAS NOT ABOVE PLEADING WITH HIS LISTENERS. Peter realized the importance of what he was telling the people. He wanted them to hear and believe in Jesus. An older member died at West Portal Lutheran in San Francisco. At her funeral Pastor Keyne told the story of one of his last visits. The woman's children had long since stopped going to church. They had children of their own and other assorted responsibilities. The woman told the Pastor that she had tried bribes, she had tried arguments and she had even tried pleading with her children, to get them back to church, but nothing seemed to work. I suppose Pastor Keyne was doing some pleading of his own, since her children were in the front row. In her case it took her very life to get them to come back. Jesus gave His life to bring you into the perfect relationship with His Father that leads to eternal life.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Changed to Serve

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 133:1;) Psalm 133:2-3

David wrote this psalm when the 12 tribes met unanimously to make him king. Psalm 133 is a brief hymn of praise which speaks of unity and brotherly love. With all the discord among men, we can never say enough to persuade people to live together in the knowledge of Jesus, because that knowledge would bring peace in the world.

COLLECT

Jesus was born into our humanity and by that work lifted up our flesh in glory before God. We ask for the ability to show forth the joy that has come to us for all He has done.

FIRST LESSON—Acts 2:14a, 36-41

The men in the Gospel Lesson expressed surprise that someone might not have heard about Jesus. Peter was talking to those very people, those who have not heard and been converted. The operative paragraph is "With many other words he warned them;..." Peter used the Scripture to prove that Jesus is the Christ. He provided the wonder of the fulfillment of Christ in the death and Resurrection and then told everyone how to become a part of the fulfillment, "Repent and be Baptized." He was speaking to people steeped in the Old Testament so Peter only had to connect them to the Word. After their conversion they completed their joy by joining as one in the community.

GRADUAL—Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6

This is a statement of the Resurrection followed by the glory and honor given to Christ by our Father.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Peter 1:17-25

The Word of God concerning the Resurrection of Jesus is designed not only to make us wiser, but also to make us better. Peter commented on the "empty ways handed down from your forefathers..." He then went on to connect Jesus as the revelation and (more or less) presents this as being from the Word of God. "...revealed in these last times for your sake." It is through Jesus that we believe and have our joy and (as joy is uplifting then we also have) health in the Resurrection.

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 24:13-35

We aren't exactly keeping ourselves in chronological order in our lessons. This event goes all the way back to Easter Sunday, toward the evening. That being said: This lesson shows how human we are. Hearing the proof of the Resurrection wasn't good enough for more than just Thomas. The two disciples of Jesus expressed that they were "amazed" by the