Lord's Day Worship

A DIVINE SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 23, 2023

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Quiet our minds, O God, and gladden our hearts; that, as we come together to worship you, we may, by your Spirit, be drawn near to your presence and find that this place is indeed the very gate of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

GOD CALLS US

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Behold! I tell you a mystery.

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. People:

For the trumpet will sound,

And the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

For this perishable body must put on the imperishable,

And this mortal body must put on immortality.

When the perishable puts on the imperishable,

And the mortal puts on immortality,

Then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory!"

"O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

Thanks be to God,

Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Alleluia!

1 Cor. 15:50-55, 57

†HYMN OF PRAISE

†SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF PRAISE

Pastor: We are called together to worship in the Name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: Amen!

The LORD be with you!

And also with you!

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge! Ps. 18:2

For we have died, and our life is hidden with Christ in God.

When the Christ who is our life appears, we also will appear with him in glory. Alleluia! 3:3-4

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy our Lord's resurrection, may, by your life-giving Spirit, be delivered from sin and raised from death; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

GOD CLEANSES US

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up;

God is our salvation.

Our God is a God of salvation,

And to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.

Ps 68:19-20

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION

+Silent Prayer of Confession +

Have mercy on us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Now lift up your heads, and hear these words of comfort

and good news from the Scriptures...

"Jesus is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.'

Pastor: Our heavenly Father, in his great mercy, has given his only Son to die for you, and for his sake forgives you all your sins; wherefore as Christ's minister and by his authority, I declare to you that all of your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

All praise be Thine, O Risen Lord, from death to endless life restored:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

To Father, Son, and Spirit be all power and praise eternally! Christ is risen! O praise Him! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

HOLY BAPTISM

Sophia Alexandria Katsoulis

PASTORAL BLESSING

All:

Pastor: For you, Sophia, Jesus Christ took on flesh and was made man. For you he entered the shadow of Gethsemane and the horror of Calvary. For you he uttered the cry, "It is finished!" and died on the tree. For you Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and there he intercedes — all this for you, little Sophia, though you do not yet know it. But in this way the word of the Gospel is made true:

"We love him, because he first loved us." Amen!

PRAYER & PASTORAL WELCOME

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, according to the commandment of Christ, this child, Sophia Alexandria Katsoulis, is now received into the membership of the holy catholic Church and is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant to her life's end. Therefore, welcome Sophia in the Lord, as Christ has also welcomed you, to the glory of God.

All: Amen. Alleluia! 

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen!

†HYMN OF PRAISE

"Be Thou My Vision" Selection 642

GOD CONVERSES WITH US

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 14:8-18

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

> And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

> Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us, under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

> And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen!

†"Gloria Patri" Selection 735 SERMON TEXT..... Genesis 8:20-22, 9:8-17

"God's Covenant with Humanity & the Animals"..... Pastor Josh Anderson XII. Exposition of Genesis 4-12: The True History of the World

GOD COMMUNES WITH US

†COMMUNION HYMN

†The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you! Pastor: People: And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Pastor:

It is indeed right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks unto you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, in union with the saints who have gone before us and the whole church on earth, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and All:

earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O Lord

Most High!

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Prayer of Preparation & Faith

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your steadfast love, which endures forever. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Father, to partake of the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ, that we may grow into his likeness, and evermore abide in union with him, and he with us. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Bread

Pastor: Alleluia, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

‡Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Wine

Pastor: Let us confess the mystery of our faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, All:

Christ will come again!

GOD COMMISSIONS US

†Prayer of Dedication

All gracious God, who of your infinite love gave your only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins and rise again for our justification, and have made us partakers of your divine nature through the gift of the Holy Spirit; accept the fruits of our labors which we now present to you in this offering and also our very selves as we stand before you; and hear us as we pray as your Son taught us: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen!

†Hymn o "Jes	f Praise sus Shall Reign" Selection 441
†Pastoral Bei	nediction
Pastor:	The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

†Those who are able are invited to stand.

People:

Amen!

Genesis 8:20-22, 9:8-17

[20] Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. [21] And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. [22] While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

[8] Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, [9] "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, [10] and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. [11] I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." [12] And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: [13] I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. [14] When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, [15] I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. [16] When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." [17] God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

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Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023