THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
May 3, 2020

Theme of the Day: The heart of every problem is always the problem of the heart. The heart of the COVID-19 problem is the problem in our heart. Be of good cheer. God gives you a new heart!

PRESERVICE MUSIC
Come as You Are
King’s Strings

WELCOME

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP
P: Christ is risen!
C: He is risen, indeed!
P: The one who sits on the throne says—
C: Behold, I am making all things new!
P: Today we give thanks for a new heart.
C: God removes our heart of stone.
P: And gives us a heart of flesh.
C: Not by might and not by power.
All: But by his Spirit!

HYMN
In Christ Alone

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
P: Lord Jesus Christ, you sit on the throne saying—
C: Behold, I am making all things new!
P: Forgive us, Lord when we are hesitant to live the resurrection life.
C: Forgive us that so quickly we return to our old life.
P: Old habits. Old ruts. Old ways.
C: Old patterns. Old excuses. Old attitudes.
P: Old prejudices and old routines.
C: Old behavior and our old, sinful nature.
P: Open our eyes to the glory of your resurrection—
C: Our hearts to the wonder of your cross—
All: And our lives to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Though our sin is great, Christ’s love for us is greater.

P: In the name of Jesus, you are loved abundantly, you are forgiven completely and you have new life eternally!
C: Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee.
P: From death’s dread sting thy servants free.
C: That we may live and sing to thee.
All: Alleluia!
PRAYER OF THE DAY
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, through Calvary-love and resurrection-power, create in us new hearts and right spirits, to the end that we love you and our neighbors as ourselves; for you live and reign with the Father and Spirit—God forever,
All: Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE READINGS ARE ABOUT A NEW HEART

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
Ezekiel 36:24–29

EPISODE LESSON
Romans 10:9–11

SONG
From the Inside Out

GOSPEL LESSON
Luke 24:13–33

APSTLES’ CREED

SERMON
“A New Heart”

HYMN
Resurrection Power

OPPORTUNITIES

OFFERINGS
All My Hope

PRAYERS

P: Gracious heavenly Father, your promise of a new heart beating within my life shouts of your mercy and might.
C: There is nothing I need or want more, and I praise you for this great promise in Jesus Christ.
P: Father, you’ve already declared us to be perfectly righteous in your sight forever—a status that makes me yearn for the complete healing of my yet-to-be perfected heart.
C: How I long for the Day when my heart will only beat for Jesus’ glory; be enamored with his beauty; feel with his passion; think with his wisdom; and love with his affection.
P: Indeed, that’s what I’m most earnestly desiring today. By the work of your indwelling Spirit, change my heart, Father. The image of a heart of stone being replaced with a heart of flesh is no mere metaphor to me, it’s a gospel-miracle.
C: I want a kind heart—a tender heart, a compassionate heart, a caring heart, a servant’s heart, a soft heart, the heart of Jesus.
P: I want to forgive from my heart and not just avoid the pain of conflict. I want to encourage people for their good, not flatter them for my benefit. I want to see what you see in others, and not obsess over what I want for others. I want to feel joy and hope every time I hear your name.
C: I praise you Father for promising just such a heart through the resources of the gospel.
Additional prayers

P: I pray, with fresh gratitude, in Jesus matchless name, who also teaches us to pray. “Our Father …”

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P: Christ is risen!
C: He is risen, indeed!
P: The one who sits on the throne says—
C: Behold, I am making all things new!
P: We go forth with resurrection life—
All: With a new heart!

CLOSING HYMN

Our God is Greater

SILENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ—my Doctor and Donor—remove my heart of stone and give me a new heart—your heart! Amen.

POSTLUDE

Our God is Greater