

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Confronted by Christ

April 13 & 14, 2013

AS WE GATHER

The appearances of the risen Christ continue in today's Scripture passages. In the readings from Acts Jesus literally opens the eyes of Saul to see how he will be of great service to our Lord. When Peter meets Jesus, though our Lord reminds him of his denials on Maundy Thursday, His gracious invitation is to follow Him in faith-filled service. In heaven, it is revealed to John, Christ reigns with eternal and temporal power, receiving endless adoration. As we hear the Word today, Christ confronts our fears and failures, offering complete forgiveness, opportunity to respond in joyful service, and eternal life itself.

+ PREPARATION +

WELCOME

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

OPENING HYMN #490 "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"

Jesus lives! The vic-t'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died. Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide, Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be by sure defense; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: Jesus is my confidence!

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

People: Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper! *Psalm 30:8, 10*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Most merciful God,

People: we confess that we have often consigned unbelievers to your wrath, thinking they were beyond your mercy, an abomination to you. Open our eyes to catch a vision of how you decisively change people like Saul into unwavering servants and saints like St. Paul. We confess that, like St. John, we have lamented the woes that remain eclipsed by the unknown future. Renew in us the conviction that your Son has all the power and might, not only over eternal death, but also over all the powers that be in all temporal time, space, and eternity. We confess that, like St. Peter, we have not always let your complete forgiveness influence our remorse over our sinful failures. Grant that we hear anew your gracious call to live each day, joyfully following our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb on the throne, is worthy because He was willing to be slain for the sins of the whole world. By His death He has destroyed death, and by His rising again has restored us to everlasting life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

EASTER ACCLAMATION

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of your Son you raised up the fallen world.

People: Grant to your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

FIRST READING Acts 9:1-22 (*The Conversion of Saul*) Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

SECOND READING Revelation 5:1-14 (*The Scroll and the Lamb*)

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

10:30

"This is the Day"

Jr. High Choir

(Rise)

ALLELUIA VERSE (sung to tune#474 Alleluia! Jesus Has Risen)

Alleluia! We know that Jesus, Raised from the dead, is alive evermore.

Alleluia! Death has no power. Raised from the dead He is Lord over all.

Did not our hearts burn when Jesus our Lord opened the Scriptures? Alleluia!

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HOLY GOSPEL John 21:1-19 (*Jesus appears to seven disciples.*)

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat,

but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

GOSPEL RESPONSE (sung to tune#474 Alleluia! Jesus Has Risen)

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! For the apostles He waited ashore.

Alleluia! Though they'd caught nothing,

At His Word, soon was the net full of fish!

Simon, do you love Me more than the rest? Love Me and follow! Alleluia!

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(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #487 "Come, You Faithful Raise the Strain"

Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!

God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness,

Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's son and daughters,

Led them with un-moistened foot Through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst His prison

And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has risen;

All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is flying

From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright With the day of splendor,

With the royal feast of feasts Comes its joy to render;

Comes to gladden faithful hearts Which with true affection

Welcome in unwearied strain Jesus' resurrection! *continued*

For today among His own Christ appeared, bestowing
His deep peace, which evermore Passes human knowing.
Neither could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark portal
Nor the watchers nor the seal Hold Him as a mortal.

Alleluia! Now we cry To our King immortal,
Who, triumphant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark portal.
Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel Into joy from sadness!

SERMON

"Do You Love Me More Than These"

John 21:1-19

(Rise)

CREED

Pastor: The saints who have gone before us could not claim any merit for their life-changing faith; it is always a gift of God the Holy Spirit. That revelation, that enlightenment, is the central message in the Small Catechism's Explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed. We speak it now as our confession of faith.

People: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI #547

"The Lamb"

Stanzas 1 & 5

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain *Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows,
His song prolong Till ev-ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain**

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #774 "Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy"

Feed Thy children, God most holy; Comfort sinners poor and lowly.
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven, Bless the food Thou here hast given!
As these gifts the body nourish, May our souls in graces flourish
Till with saints in heav'n-ly splendor At Thy feast due thanks we render.

HYMN #531 "Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus"

Hail, Thou once despised Jesus! Hail, Thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us; Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, Thou universal Savior, Bearer of our sin and shame!
By Thy merit we find favor: Life is given through Thy name. *Continued*

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, All our sins on Thee were laid;
By almighty love anointed, Thou hast full atonement made.
All Thy people are forgiven Through the virtue of Thy blood;
Opened is the gate of heaven, Reconciled are we with God.

Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory, There forever to abide;
All the heav'n-ly hosts adore Thee, Seated at Thy Father's side.
There for sinners Thou art pleading; There Thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding Till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing Thou art worthy to receive;
Highest praises, without ceasing, Right it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits, All your noblest anthems raise;
Help to sing our Savior's merits, Help to chant Immanuel's praise!

HYMN #622 "Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood, And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed, We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.

Although You did to heav'n ascend, Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold Your glory, all excelling,
And though Your people shall not see Your glory and Your majesty
Tell dawns the judgment morning.

Yet, Savior, You are not confined To any habitation;
But You are present even now Here with Your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.

We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true, All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.

Though reason cannot understand, Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is even now At once in many places.
I leave to You how this can be; Your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unailing. *Continued*

Lord, I believe what You have said; Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust, And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and still my fears
And is my priceless treasure.

Grant that we worthily receive Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins, May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Your grace And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.

For Your consoling supper, Lord, Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "Lord God Above" (sung to tune#474 Alleluia! Jesus Has Risen)

Lord God above, Now let Your servant Go from here with the assurance of sight.

My eyes have seen Jesus, my Savior, Glory of Israel; for nations, Light.

Praise we the Father, the Spirit and Son, Now and forever! Alleluia!

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that you have
strengthened our faith through the life-changing word of grace we have
heard with our ears, and our Lord's body and blood we have tasted with
our lips. Keep us strong in this faith until we join angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven, praising the Lamb who was slain, but
who is alive forevermore; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #525 "Crown Him with Many Crowns" Stanzas 1,3,4

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'n-ly anthems drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Preacher & Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Jr. High Choir Director

Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Manley Hurst, Bob Woller, Bob Reynolds

Kaylee Quillen, Rachel Osell, Nick Alioto

Roger Gottschalk

Shannon Wiegert

Kim Woller