

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Do You Truly Love Me?

April 9 & 10, 2016

5:00 & 8:00

AS WE GATHER

The story of Peter is interesting. It was Peter who first confessed Jesus as Lord—and Peter to whom Jesus said, “Get behind Me, Satan.” It was Peter who insisted he was not like the others and would never abandon Jesus—and Peter who denied the Lord three times. But Peter’s story is also the story of the mercy of God to forgive Peter, to restore him from his falls, and to set him apart for service. Every Christian is like Peter—an enemy of God through sin to whom the Lord has shown His friendship in the Gospel and transformed into His friend!

WELCOME

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,
set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:1-2)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #482 “This Joyful Eastertide”

This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow:

Refrain Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ arisen,
Arisen, arisen; But now has Christ arisen!

Death’s flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: **Refrain**

My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: **Refrain**

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES *Psalms 30:5; 145:9*

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: The Lord is good to all,

People: and His mercy is over all that He has made.

Pastor: For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.

People: Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another.

People: Merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We are dead in sin by our very nature. We have failed to do the good you have called us to do, and we have done the evil you forbid. We pray for pardon, peace, and forgiveness for our sin, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Release us from sin’s burden and guilt that we may know the peace of forgiveness and serve you with our whole heart, mind, and strength.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord ✠ be with you.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“This Is the Feast”

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Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sung)

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might

be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

5:00 BAPTISM of Avery & Brayson Zielinski

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✠ **WORD** ✠

FIRST READING *Acts 9:1–22* (Saul, why do you persecute Me?)

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* (Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!) 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.

5:00 CHOIR ANTHEM *“Now Paul, He Was a Servant”* David Brazzeal *Middle School Choir*
(For study and edification)

Now Paul, he was a servant, a servant of the Lord, was shipwrecked three days,
even threatened with the sword,

Spent nights in a prison for preaching of the Lord; but through it all, he learned:

Chorus - When I am weak, my God is strong, even when times get tough.
Protecting, guiding all along. His grace is more, more than enough.

Now Paul, he suffered so much so others could believe,
like thirty-nine lashes five times he did receive.

A day and a night he spent floating in the sea; but through it all, he learned: **Chorus**

Now Paul, he traveled often; at times he had no food.
In one certain city was beaten, stoned and booed.

Though sleepless and tired, it did not change his mood; but through it all, he learned: **Chorus**

Now we, like Paul, are servants, are servants of the Lord.

We fight our own battles, tho' not with whips and swords,
enduring our trials by trusting in the Lord; and through it all, we learn: **Chorus**

8:00 CHOIR ANTHEM *“Majesty”* *St. Paul’s Choir*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 21:1–19* (After directing the disciples to a great catch of fish, Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him.) 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. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #463 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia”

Christ the Lord is ris’n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! At the paschal victim’s feet. Alleluia!

For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! Sinless in the sinner’s stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

Hail, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia! Met in strange and awesome strife.
Alleluia!

Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris’n on high; Alleluia! Now He lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

GROUNDWORK GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

(Rise)

8:00 APOSTLES’ CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, as your Son so mercifully absolved Peter and converted Paul that they might feed your sheep and your lambs, so preserve pastors from doubt and every assault of the devil that would prevent them from proclaiming the victory of Christ's death and resurrection.

People: Open the ears of all who hear to seek your Son, to grow to know Him better, to receive His grace and wisdom in both Word and Sacraments, that we may be the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand.

Pastor: Merciful God, you reveal to us in your Word this day the triumphant risen Christ both with His disciples on earth and surrounded by His people in heaven. Preserve us when we are tempted by sins that would deceive us or seduce us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice.

People: Whenever we sin, move us quickly to repentance, and grant that we might live joyful lives as forgiven people who look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Pastor: Lord of the church, we rejoice in the furtherance of Christ's kingdom among us. We especially rejoice as Brayson Wayne and Avery Warren have been baptized into Christ. Bless their parents to raise them in the nurture and admonition of Jesus Christ.

People: Bless us to welcome them as members of our church family and grow with them in knowing and following Jesus.

Pastor: Lord of all, we rejoice in the work you are doing in the nation of Guatemala and the blessing of having a team from our church share the love and salvation of Christ with those in such a faraway place.

People: Bless us to hear of your work with open ears, to be inspired by the stories we hear, and to be moved to share the love of Christ with all.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, your risen Son provided bread and fish for His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, providing for the needs of their bodies even as He cared for their souls. On every day and at every meal, grant us thankful

hearts that recognize that you still provide for all of our wants of body and soul.

People: Move us also to share what we have with those who are in need.

Pastor: Holy God, through the resurrection of your Son we are given victory over all the wages of sin, including afflictions of body and mind. Hear the prayers of all who cry out to you for deliverance from sickness, injury and other affliction including Kathleen, Al, Doris, Jean, Barb, Jan, Ruth, Jean, Mae, Bob, Marion, Richard, Debra, Helen, Leonard, Marion, LuEva, Linda, Gladys, Russ, Jack, Shirley, Gretchen, Lois and Sarah.

People: Restore to them health and strength, and increase their faith to look with joyful confidence to the Last Day and the eternal healing you promise for all of your people.

Pastor: Almighty God, we rejoice in your goodness bestowed upon us day after day. We join with Pam Akey as she celebrates Brad's 25th birthday even as we rejoice with Jeff and Beth as they celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary.

People: Open our eyes to all your blessings and make us to be a thankful people.

Pastor: Almighty God, worthy is your Son to receive all glory and honor and blessing, for He has ransomed your people from every tribe and language and people and nation.

People: Grant us repentant hearts that gladly receive His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, that we might live in joyful expectation of the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Pastor: Lord of life, we give thanks that you raised up your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead and now promise to raise up your people to eternal life. Receive our thanks for your faithfulness. Be with us when we grieve, and preserve us in hope until that day when you turn our mourning into dancing forever; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

8:00 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

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.
(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 #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 sons 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!

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!

HYMN #627 “Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”

Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior, Turned away God’s wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe He saved us from the evil foe.

As His pledge of love undying, He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread, And with the wine the blood He shed.

Jesus here Himself is sharing; Heed then how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe, His judgment then you shall receive.

Praise the Father, who from heaven To His own this food has given,
Who, to mend what we have done, Gave into death His only Son.

Firmly hold with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed, By hearts that long for peace and rest.

Agony and bitter labor Were the cost of God’s high favor;
Do not come if you suppose You need not Him who died and rose.

Christ says: “Come, all you that labor, And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill Need no physician’s help or skill.

“For what purpose was My dying If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food If you yourself were pure and good?”

If your heart this truth professes And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior’s guest, Be at His banquet truly blest.

Let this food your faith so nourish That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you How much God’s wondrous love can do.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O almighty God, by your Son, our Savior, you have always given to your Church on earth faithful shepherds to guide and feed your flock. Make all pastors diligent to preach your Holy Word and to administer your Means of Grace, and grant your people wisdom to hear and heed your Word, to serve you in willing obedience, and to walk in the way that

leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #832 “Jesus Shall Reign”

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does its successive journeys run:
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made, And endless praises crown His head; His
name like sweet perfume shall rise With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue Dwell on His love with sweetest song; And
infant voices shall proclaim Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns: The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest, And all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud amen.

Preacher & Liturgist (5:00)

Liturgist (8:00)

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Middle School Choir Director

Piano

Choir Director

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pat Graf, Carri Wolcyk

Brey Rudig, Abigail Fellenbaum

Roger Gottschalk

Shannon Krueger

Caleb Wiegert

Nancy Hoelke

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