

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 4, 2025



john 21: 1-19

american

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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volunteer

Select a Sunday.
Select a Role.

BE OF SERVICE.



OUR MISSION

We are people who worship Jesus Christ, reaching out to teach and share his love for people. We believe through the Holy Spirit, God has empowered us to worship Jesus Christ through music, Word and Sacrament; To Teach the gospel through Sunday School, confirmation, Bible Study and Youth Ministry. To share the gospel and reach out through Fellowship, Evangelism and Ministry to all in need.

JOIN US for Worship, Fellowship & Sunday School each week!

Worship begins @ 9 am * Fellowship/Sunday School @ 10 am

A MESSAGE ON FIRST COMMUNION

Today, we celebrate the gift of First Communion for our fifth grade Sunday School students. They will enjoy their first taste of a meal of grace and love in a time to remember Jesus and his sacrifice for us. In this meal, we are nourished, strengthened, and renewed for daily living. Through the bread and wine, we receive the true body and blood of Christ, a gift of forgiveness and new life. Let us rejoice in the community gathered here, and in the love and peace of Christ. As we share this meal, let us also commit ourselves to following Jesus, to living a life of faith and service, and to proclaiming the good news of God's love to the world.

We congratulate our fifth graders and welcome all their family members joining us today!

Welcome to Worship

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

INTRODUCTION

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

(Congregation, please stand)

****All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of ✠ the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

(Acolytes come forward to light the candles once the congregation has started to sing our gathering hymn.)

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #729 The Church of Christ, in Every Age!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

ELW pg. 98 *in the red hymnal*

CANTICLE OF PRAISE, ELW pg. 99 *in the red hymnal*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal and all-merciful God, **with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

FIRST READING

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” [7 The men who were

traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”]

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

*You have turned my
wailing into dancing.
(Psalm 30:11)*

Psalm 30

¹I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

²**O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.**

³You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴**Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance.**

⁵God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime. Weeping spends the night, but joy comes | in the morning.

⁶**While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.**

⁷You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains." Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

⁸**I cried to you, O LORD; I pleaded with my Lord, saying,**

⁹"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

¹⁰**Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; O LORD, be my helper."**

¹¹You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹²**Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

SECOND READING

*The vision of John
recorded in Revelation
offers a glimpse of cosmic
worship around the
throne. At its center is "the
Lamb who was slain."*

Revelation 5:11-14

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Congregation, please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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GOSPEL John 21:1-19

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the

disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

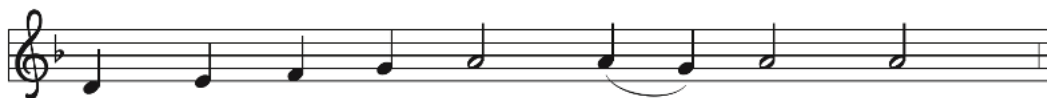
CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

if you love me, feed my sheep

John 21:17



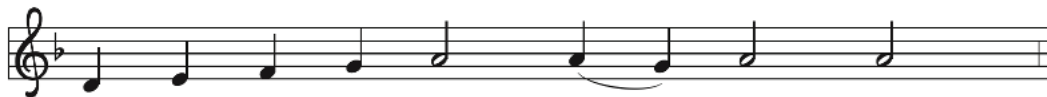
HYMN OF ACS #954 You, Lord, Are Both Lamb & Shepherd THE DAY



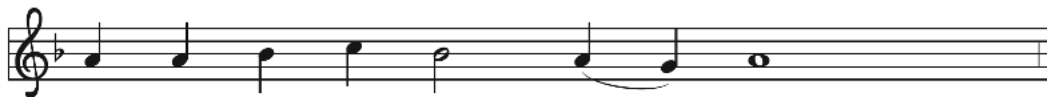
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



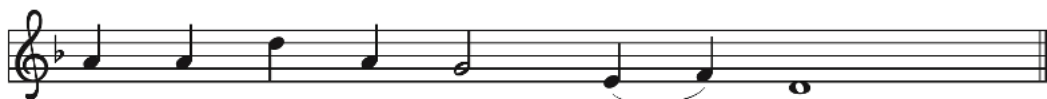
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim and guide.
you, who are our death and life.

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Dunstan,
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Music:
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French
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17th century,
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THE NICENE CREED

(Congregation, please stand)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Petitions end “Hear us, O God” Congregation responds, “your mercy is great.”

SHARING THE PEACE


The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

OFFERING

(Congregation, please stand)

OFFERTORY ELW #860 I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,

Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,

sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American Spiritual, Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American Spiritual.
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OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.
(Please be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION
HYMNS**

ELW #661 I Love to Tell the Story

ELW #666 What Wondrous Love is This

(Congregation, please stand)

**PRAYER AFTER
COMMUNION**

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING
HYMN**

ELW #825 You Servants of God

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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GOD PAUSE: John 21: 1-19

A daily devotion by alumni of Luther Seminary posted on May 1, 2025

DEVOTION

As we read John's story, we meet disciples who have faced many changes in the few days surrounding Easter. Their rabbi, Jesus, had been crucified, had risen from the tomb, and had come and appeared to them while they were hiding out, and showed them his wounds, proving to them it was he. This would be more than enough to unsettle a person! Seemingly at loose ends, not knowing what to do, they went up to the Sea of Galilee and went back to their original occupation—for most of them fishing. Like most of us they were probably seeking the comfortable and familiar. This is when Jesus comes to them to send them on to their mission, to share the good news, the gospel of God's redeeming love and grace. What had seemed to them to be a pause, or even an ending, is now just the beginning of their calling, fishing for people to share in God's love and redemption. We are all called to that same mission.

by
Kathleen M. U. Lowery '00
M.Div. Retired,
Maplewood, MN

PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to move beyond the comfortable and familiar to share the good news of your loving grace and redemption. Amen.

DO YOU LOVE ME?

follow me

When we encounter Jesus, we are changed and will never be the same. Jesus can be revealed in a blinding light on the road, in an abundance of fish, in breakfast on the beach. God uses all sorts of surprising things—bread, wine, water, words of forgiveness—to convert us. Like baptism, this conversion is both a once-in-a-lifetime, life-changing event and a daily process—a change that comes

again and again, like Jesus' question to Peter: "Do you love me?" Again and again, Jesus calls us to follow him. For Saul, the journey doesn't end with the blinding light on the road. For Peter, the journey doesn't end with breakfast on the beach. Conversion sets each of them, and each of us, on a path that continues for the rest of our life on earth—and leads into life eternal.

COMMEMORATIONS

SUN., MAY 4: Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

THURS., MAY 8:

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416

*When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.*

Victor the Moor, martyr, died 303 (TFF)

Also known as Victor Maurus, this native of the northwest African nation of Mauritania was a soldier in the Roman Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan.

FRI., MAY 9: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church, hymnwriter, died 1760

When he was 22, a group of Moravians asked permission to live on Zinzendorf's land. He agreed, and eventually worldwide Moravian missions emanated from this community. Zinzendorf participated in these missions, and is also remembered for writing hymns characteristic of his Pietistic faith.