

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 1, 2022

*Do You Love Me More Than These?*

In light of Christ's eternal victory, we should expect change in our daily living. For example, although they were called to be fishers of men, in today's Gospel, the disciples learned that they needed to listen to their Lord even when fishing for fish. Change for Peter would mean moving from regretting his past (where he denied his Lord) to feeding Christ's flock. And for Saul (Paul), Christ's eternal, living presence would mean changing from catching Christians to proclaiming Christ before Gentiles and kings. The heavenly host in the Reading from Revelation sing their eternal songs of praise to the Lamb on the throne. How might our risen Lord's eternal victory over sin and evil change us so that we echo their praises already here in time?

**+ PREPARATION +**

**OPENING HYMN:** #907 - [\*God Himself Is Present\*](#)

## INVOCATION

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

**People:** **Amen.**

## EASTER ACCLAMATION

**Pastor:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People:** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** We have come to worship our great God. However, in our sinful condition, we cannot get near to Him. Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

**People:** **I confess to You, heavenly Father, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in my thoughts, words, and actions. I am unable to save myself, to turn from my errors, and to atone for my sins. I plead to God for grace and mercy.**

**Pastor:** By the grace of God, there is One who is worthy to take our requests for forgiveness to God's throne of grace. Jesus Christ alone is worthy, for He is God's own Lamb and has ransomed us from our sins by dying for us and rising in glory. He declares us to be saints, able to go to God in all

confidence, and priests, offering our prayers for one another and all people. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

**PSALM** *Psalm 30*

<sup>1</sup>I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up  
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

**<sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.**

<sup>3</sup>O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

**<sup>4</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,  
and give thanks to his holy name.**

<sup>5</sup>For his anger is but for a moment,  
and his favor is for a lifetime.

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

**<sup>6</sup>As for me, I said in my prosperity,  
"I shall never be moved."**

<sup>7</sup>By your favor, O LORD,  
you made my mountain stand strong;  
you hid your face;  
I was dismayed.

**<sup>8</sup>To you, O LORD, I cry,  
and to the Lord I plead for mercy:**

<sup>9</sup>"What profit is there in my death,  
if I go down to the pit?  
Will the dust praise you?  
Will it tell of your faithfulness?"

**<sup>10</sup>Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me!  
O LORD, be my helper!"**

<sup>11</sup>You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;  
you have loosed my sackcloth  
and clothed me with gladness,

**<sup>12</sup>that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **KYRIE**

Pastor: We echo the countless hosts of heaven in their ceaseless praise of our Lord, the Lamb, for whose sake God shows us mercy.

**People: Lord, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

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

**People: Christ, have mercy on us.**

Pastor: And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

*"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"*

**People: Lord, have mercy on us and grant us Your peace.**

Pastor: And the four living creatures said,

**People: "Amen!"**

Pastor: and the elders fell down and worshiped.

### **SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, through the sacrifice of Your Son on our behalf, You made us worthy to approach You in confident faith. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to give You all the praise each day in what we think, say, and do; through

Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Acts 9:1–22

*(Jesus appears to Saul, who then proclaims Him to be the Son of God.)*

<sup>1</sup>But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup>And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup>and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." <sup>21</sup>And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" <sup>22</sup>But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

**Christ has risen from the dead.**

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.**

**He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;**

**he has put all things under his feet.**

**EPISTLE** *Revelation 5:8–14*

*(Worthy is the Lamb.)*

<sup>8</sup>And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup>And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,

for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,

<sup>10</sup>and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth.”

<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

<sup>12</sup>saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” <sup>13</sup>And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor

and glory and might forever and ever!” <sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32*

Pastor: Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

**People: Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 21:1–14 (15–19)*

*(Jesus visits the disciples a third time after Easter as they fish.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together.

<sup>3</sup>Simon 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.

<sup>4</sup>Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Cast the net on 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 of the quantity of fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. <sup>8</sup>The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup>When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."

<sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>When 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." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved 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. <sup>18</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup>(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** #464 – *[The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done](#)*

**SERMON:** *Do You Love Me More Than These?*

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition:*

Pastor: ... Lord, in Your mercy:

**People: hear our prayer.**

*At conclusion:*

Pastor: ... with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

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.**

### **EASTER ACCLAMATION**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### **BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*

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.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING HYMN:** #469 - [\*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today\*](#)

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