THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Recognizing the Risen Redeemer

AS WE GATHER

God’s Word is always effective; we cannot truly hear it and remain as we were. What a revelation! Today’s Scripture Readings all reflect this truth. In Acts, Saul, once responsible for the stoning of Stephen, is changed into the apostle Paul, the human author of much of the New Testament. In the vision in Revelation, John’s sorrow is drowned out by the hosts of heaven as they praise the Lamb who is worthy to receive all our praise. And in the Gospel, Peter is forgiven for his weak faith on Holy Thursday and given the gracious invitation to follow his Lord. Now it is our turn to be changed—into people freed from sin and death to serve our living Lord.
Today we are privileged to have Rev. Dr. Dean Wenthe as our preacher and the one leading our Bible Class. Dr. Wenthe is the President of the Concordia University System, which oversees the 9 Universities and Colleges of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. After graduating from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO in 1971, he taught at Concordia Theological Seminary, beginning that same year, first at the Springfield, Illinois site, and then at the present site in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In 1996 he was called to be the president of the seminary and served in that position until 2011. His Th.M. was earned from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1974 and earned a Ph.D. in Hebrews Studies from the University of Notre Dame in 1991. He also served as a parish pastor at Zion in Atlantic, Iowa from 1977-1980 and as a pastoral assistant at Emmanuel in New Haven, Indiana from 1989-1996. He has served on the Commission of Theology and Church Relations and the President’s Commission on the Sanctity of Life. May God bless his time with us.

※ PREPARATION ※

GATHERING SONG

THAT’S WHY WE PRAISE HIM! Walker

He came to live, live a perfect life; He came to be the Living Word, our light.
He came to die so we’d be reconciled; He came to rise to show His pow’r and might.

CHORUS: That’s why we praise Him, that’s why we sing;
That’s why we offer Him our everything.
That’s why we bow down and worship this King,
‘Cause He gave His everything,
‘Cause He gave His everything.

Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah.
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah. CHORUS

He came to live, live again in us; He came to be our conqu’ring King and friend.
He came to heal and show the lost ones His love;
He came to go prepare a place for us. CHORUS

Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah.
Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah. CHORUS
PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG    DEATH WAS ARRESTED    Kersh/Coker/Balltzglier/Smith

    Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin
Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in
When death was arrested and my life began

    Ash was redeemed only beauty remains
My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet my feet rose to dance
When death was arrested and my life began

CHORUS: Oh Your grace so free washes over me
    You have made me new now life begins with You
    It's Your endless love pouring down on us
    You have made us new now life begins with You

    Released from my chains I'm a pris'ner no more
My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend
When death was arrested and my life began CHORUS

    Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began CHORUS

Oh we're free free forever we're free
Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes we're free free forever amen
When death was arrested and my life began (REPEAT)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Psalm 30:1–5, 8, 10–12

Pastor: I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me. O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.
O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

In repentant faith, we come before our Lord in confession.

Silence for reflection

Almighty God,

we confess to You that we are sinful by nature. We have searched for You where You never promise to be and have failed to recognize You as You come to us today as our risen Redeemer. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and have been reluctant to be Your witnesses and to do Your will. For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray, forgive us.

Sing praises to the L ORD, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name. 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.

To You, O L ORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

Hear, O L ORD, and be merciful to me! O L ORD, be my helper!

Beloved in the Lord, God has heard our confession, and because of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has answered with Good News and revealed Himself as our Savior—our risen Redeemer. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

that my glory may sing Your praise and not be silent. O L ORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever! Amen.

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.

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
Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead.
People: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,
Pastor: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
People: He has put all things under His feet.

EPISTLE: Revelation 5:8–14
(The scroll and the Lamb)

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 21:1–14
(Jesus appears to seven disciples and restores Peter.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

Pastor:   This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People:   Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor John Larson

SONG OF THE DAY   GOD’S NOT DEAD ( LIKE A LION)   DANIEL BASHTA

Let love explode and bring the dead to life
A love so bold to see a revolution somehow  REPEAT

Now I'm lost in Your freedom
Oh this world I'll overcome

CHORUS:   My God's not dead He's surely alive
He's living on the inside roaring like a lion
God's not dead He's surely alive
He's living on the inside roaring like a lion,
Roaring, He's roaring, He's roaring like a lion

Let hope arise and make the darkness hide
My faith is weak I need a resurrection somehow  REPEAT

Now I'm lost in Your freedom
Oh this world I'll overcome  CHORUS

REV. O. WENTHE

“Bread and Fish”

SERMON

Rev. Dean O. Wenthe
Text: John 21:1-14

APOSTLE’S CREED

Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.
OFFERING    BECAUSE WE BELIEVE    Gordon/Harvill

WOMEN  We believe in God, the Father,
MEN    We believe in God, the Father,
WOMEN  We believe in Christ, the Son,
MEN    We believe in Christ, the Son,
WOMEN  We believe in the Holy Spirit,
MEN    We believe in the Holy Spirit,
WOMEN  We are the Church and we stand as one,
MEN    We are the Church and we stand as one.

CHORUS (ALL): Holy, holy, holy is our God;
Worthy, worthy, worthy is our King.
All glory and honor are His to receive;
To Jesus we sing, because we believe.

WOMEN  We believe in the Holy Bible,
MEN    We believe in the Holy Bible,
WOMEN  We believe in the virgin birth,
MEN    We believe in the virgin birth,
WOMEN  We believe in the resurrection,
MEN    We believe in the resurrection,
WOMEN  That Christ, one day, will return to earth,
MEN    That Christ, one day, will return to earth.  CHORUS (ALL)

WOMEN  We believe in the blood of Jesus,
MEN    We believe in the blood of Jesus,
WOMEN  We believe in eternal life,
MEN    We believe in eternal life,
WOMEN  We believe in the blood that frees us,
MEN    We believe in the blood that frees us,
WOMEN  To become the bride of Christ.
MEN    To become the bride of Christ.  CHORUS (ALL)

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.
PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. 
People: We lift them to the Lord. 
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. 
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD  

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER  
Matthew 6:9–13  
Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

WORTHY is the LAMB
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Christopher

Chorus: Do this in remembrance of Me. Do this in remembrance of Me. This is my body, this is my blood. Do this in remembrance of Me.

This is My body given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me. This cup’s the new covenant, sealed in My blood. Do this in remembrance of Me. For whenever you eat this bread and whenever you drink this cup, as you do you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. CHORUS

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

Zschech

Thank you for the cross, Lord. Thank you for the price you paid. Bearing all my sin and shame, in love you came And gave Amazing Grace.

Thank you for this love, Lord. Thank you for the nail-pierced hands. Wash me in Your cleansing flow, now all I know...Your forgiveness and embrace.

Worthy is the Lamb Seated on the throne. Crown You now with many crowns You reign victorious! High and lifted up Jesus, Son of God. The darling of Heaven, crucified...Worthy is the Lamb. Worthy is the Lamb.

LET IT BE SAID OF US

Fry

Let it be said of us that the Lord was our passion, That with gladness we bore every cross we were given; That we fought the good fight, and we finished the course; Knowing within us the power of the risen Lord.

CHORUS: Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song! By mercy made holy, by the Spirit made strong. Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song! Till the likeness of Jesus be through us made known. Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.

Let it be said of us, we were marked by forgiveness; We were known by our love and delighted in mercy; We were ruled by His peace, heeding unity’s call, Joined as one body that Christ would be seen by all.
GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION  *Hebrews 13:20–21, adapted*

Pastor:  May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us that which is pleasing to Him through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

   Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People:  **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
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.  *Numbers 6:24–26*

People:  **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG  **MY SAVIOR MY GOD**  *Aaron Shust*

I am not skilled to understand what God has willed what God has planned
I only know at His right hand Stands
One who is my Savior

I take Him at His word and deed Christ died to save me this I read
And in my heart I find a need
Of Him to be my Savior

That He would leave His place on high And come for sinful man to die
You count it strange so once did I
Before I knew my Savior

**CHORUS: My Savior loves my Savior lives**
   **My Savior’s always there for me**
   **My God He was my God**
   **He is My God is always gonna be (REPEAT)**

Yes living dying let me bring My strength my solace from this spring
That He who lives to be my King
Once died to be my Savior

That He would leave His place on high And come for sinful man to die
You count it strange so once did I
Before I knew my Savior  **CHORUS**

My Savior lives my Savior loves
My Savior lives my Savior loves my Savior lives

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
Pastor John Larson

PREACHER
Rev. Dean O. Wenthe

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Michael Zehnder

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
Diana Gaide

AGAPE
Rose Berger, Jenna Lawrenz, Lisa O’Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet, Larry Westra

ELDER
Bill Redden
8:00
10:30
Don Loptien

LECTOR
Joyce Lord
8:00
10:30
Mike Reimnitz

ACOLYTE
Ian Avedissian
8:00
10:30
Erik Schwerin

USHERS
Barry Kratzer, Members of the Congregation
8:00
10:30
Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER
Les Young
10:30

ALTAR GUILD
Phyllis McConnell, Sharon Seible, Cathy Utecht

FLOWERS
Caroll Haeffele, In loving memory of Harold

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Signs & Wonders