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 ★

PRELUDE  “Variations on ‘Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain’” Michael Burkhardt

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

HYMN  “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”  LSB 549

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ★ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
People: to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!
Pastor: To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
People: be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

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

Pastor: I will extol You, O L ORD, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me. O L ORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.
People: O L ORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.
Pastor: In repentant faith, we come before our Lord in confession.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Almighty God,
People: 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.

Pastor: 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.
People: Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
Pastor: To You, O L ORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:
People: Hear, O L ORD, and be merciful to me! O L ORD, be my helper!

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,
People: that my glory may sing Your praise and not be silent. O L ORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever! Amen.
KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. C Amen
HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Verses

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

2 Ponderer, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and might be to join in the hymn of all creation: to refrain

3 Sing with all the people of God, and his reign Alleluia! to Final Refrain

4 Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb for ever. Amen!

5 For the Lamb who was slain has been raised to life, Alleluia! to refrain

Final Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, 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 sacrifice of Your Son on the cross to the empty tomb, You revealed Christ risen and the life-changing mercy and love for us and all mankind.

People: Grant to Your faithful people a daily recognition of His victory over sin, death, and the grave, that we might serve You in confident joy;
Pastor: 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
(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.
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 Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

Verse for Easter 3

Incorporating VICTORY

Setting by Jacob B. Weber

Choir/Soloist: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia!

Choir or Soloist:
We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never | die again;* 
death no longer has dominion over Him. Alle - | luia.

Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us | on the road,* 
while He opened to us the Scriptures? Alle - | luia.

Refrain: Congregation
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.

HYMN “Lord, ’Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee” LSB 573

SERMON “Bread and Fish” Rev. Dean O. Wenthe
Text: John 21:1-14

APOSTLE’S CREED Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Blessed Lord, You appeared to the disciples,
showing Yourself again as the one and only risen Redeemer. You forgave Peter his betrayal and appointed him to feed Your sheep. Forgive our sins, restore us to Your service, and bless all that we do that it be to Your glory. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: You turned Saul from an enemy of Your kingdom into Your servant and sent him as an apostle to the Gentiles. Turn our hearts from rebellion and resistance to Your Word and Spirit, and lead us to be bold witnesses of Your mercy in words and in deeds. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: You set apart nations and governments for the protection of people, for justice, and for the promotion of virtue. Raise up good and honest leaders and teachers here and everywhere, especially those who believe and teach the truth of Your Word that all things were brought into existence by the mere power of Your Word. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: You deliver the sick from their illness, the wounded from their pain, the grieving from their sorrow, and the dying from their fear, especially . . . . Bless all people according to their need with grace sufficient to carry them through their day of trouble, and sustain them in faith, according to Your gracious will. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: [Additional intersessions may be added here…]. Strengthen them with Your Spirit and keep them firm in their faith. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: You bestow upon us the resources we need for this body and life and You equip us with eternal life. Grant that in our baptismal vocation we live for more than the moment and use the resources entrusted to us for Your eternal purpose. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: You show us mercy and grant us forgiveness though we deserve neither. Through Your Means of Grace You come to us in simple ways, yet with powerful grace through Jesus' body and blood given and shed for us. As we join in fellowship at Your Table, help us through Your Spirit’s gift of faith that we recognize our risen Lord, and Him alone, for our forgiveness of sins and nourishment of faith. Risen Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.
OFFERING
“The Summons: Will You Come and Follow Me”
Tom Trenney
Ascension Chorale

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.

SACRAMENT

PREFACE
Pastor: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. Colossians 3:1
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Psalm 136
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE
Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should praise Your holy name, O Lord, our God, for You offered Yourself as the perfect Lamb to be sacrificed in our place, and having redeemed the world to Yourself, You are now enthroned as the worthy Lamb on high. Therefore with every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, we laud and magnify Your glorious name with blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS
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.*

**AGNUS DEI**

“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.”

**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”  *LSB 633*  
(Verses 1-4, 7)

“Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free”  *LSB 473*  
“Crown Him With Many Crowns”  *LSB 525*

**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.

HYMN “Alabaré - I” LSB 799

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE “Toccata in C Major” J.S. Bach

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, Bri Fort, Lisa O’Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet, Larry Westra

ELDER 8:00 Bill Redden
10:30 Don Loptien

LECTOR 8:00 Joyce Lord
10:30 Mike Reimnitz

ACOLYTE 8:00 Ian Avedissian
10:30 Erik Schwerin

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

SERVER 10:30 Les Young

ALTAR GUILD Phyllis McConnell, Sharon Seible, Cathy Utecht

FLOWERS Caroll Haeffele, In loving memory of Harold

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