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**3rd Sunday of Easter**

“Jesus said to them, ‘Children, do you have any fish?’ They answered Him, ‘No.’ 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.” *John 21:5-6*

**AS WE GATHER**

In the Reading from Revelation, John reports that he saw God’s throne, where the Lamb is the only One worthy to open the seals of the scroll of the Gospel. Not only is Jesus holy in Himself, He makes holy all those whose sins He forgives because of His own sacrifice. Saul is a prime example. He is called by Christ to take the Good News of Christ to the Gentiles, even though he had been looking for Christians to arrest. In their fishing even, the disciples learn that even things of physical wellbeing depends on trusting their Savior.

**Psalm** 30

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION**

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

**People: Amen.**

**CONFESSION, ABSOLUTION and KYRIE** *the Epistle: Revelation 5:1-14*

Pastor: We have come to worship our great God. However, in our sinful condition, we cannot get near to Him. Our unworthiness is mirrored into today’s Reading from Revelation, as John sorrowfully realized. “Then I saw in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.” Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

**All: 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. “And one of the elders said to me, ‘Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals.’ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And He went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne. 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.” 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.**

Pastor: And they sang a new song, saying,

**All: “’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,
and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.’”**

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!’**

Lector: and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia”* (*LSB* 463)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**FIRST READING** Acts 9:1-22

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 21:1-14

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**HYMN** *“The Lamb”* (*LSB* 547)

**SERMON *“Dive In”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

**OFFERING**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: hear our prayer.**

**LORD’S PRAYER, SUNG** (*LSB*,front inside cover)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”* (*LSB* 633)

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, we give thanks that You have strengthened us with the body and blood of Your Son, who alone is worthy of worship and praise. Use our hearts and minds, our bodies and abilities, to demonstrate His love each day until we see Him in glory face-to-face; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”* (*LSB* 465)

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**