

## Third Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022

### Introduction to the Day

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.

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of baptism,  
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus  
Christ,  
and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us  
bless God,

who was, who is, and who is to come.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding  
minister gives thanks.*

We thank you, God, for your river of life,  
flowing freely from your throne:

through the earth,

through the city,

through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;

You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.

Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,  
and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gate of righteousness  
and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety.

You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places, you are with us.

You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water

and awaken your church once more.

Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away  
every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End,

our Shepherd and Lamb,

be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

#857

**Greeting** – The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

### 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.**

### Reading: Psalm 30

<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me  
up,

and did 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 brought up my soul from Sheol,

restored me to life from among those gone down  
to the Pit.<sup>[a]</sup>

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

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

Weeping may linger 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 had established me as a strong mountain;  
you hid your face;  
I was dismayed.  
<sup>8</sup>To you, O LORD, I cried,  
and to the LORD I made supplication:  
<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 gracious to me!  
O LORD, be my helper!”  
<sup>11</sup>You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,  
<sup>12</sup>so that my soul<sup>[b]</sup> may praise you and not be  
silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you  
forever.

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

### **Children’s Message**

#### **Gospel: John 21:1-19**

<sup>1</sup>After [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. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <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 after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” <sup>6</sup>He 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. <sup>7</sup>That 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. <sup>8</sup>But 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.

<sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish 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, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though 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 to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared 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.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup>A 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.” <sup>17</sup>He 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. <sup>18</sup>Very 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.” <sup>19</sup>(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**

### **Sermon**

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Three times Jesus asks Peter, “Do you love me.” Again, we get repetition.

Typically when we see Jesus in dialog with another it is a conversation that the other has started up. The structure we are used to would have Peter in this situation telling Jesus, “I want you to know that I love you.”

Instead, following their breakfast, sitting around the table engaged in some small talk, Jesus asks Peter, “do you love me?”

Peter gives the answer we’d expect, but Jesus persists, and again – 3 times – he asks him, “Do you love me?”

Each time Peter responds with certainty. “Yes, of course. You know that.”

And, each time, we hear Jesus tell Peter, and us, what loving Jesus looks like.

“Feed my lambs.”

“Tend my sheep.”

“Feed my sheep.”

Typically, we would imagine together what it looks like as people of faith, to feed the lambs and tend to the sheep among us. We would hear how this is a call to literally feed those who are hungry among us, and compassionately tend to those who among us need to be cared for.

And those things are good. And they are true. And those needs are great.

But, there are also times when life and this world present a different image of what it means to feed the flock.

I’d imagine we are all aware of the tragedy that struck the Chippewa Valley in the last week. It was difficult to see on social media the number of people shaken to their core by that tragic news.

In the Toufar house we were no different. As our school aged child got home on Monday our conversations started. It was a simple question of “did you notice if there was any extra teachers when you got on the school bus at the end of the day?” We soon realized the news of the day hadn’t yet reached our children, but as parents we knew that we would have to find a way to talk about what they inevitably would come to learn about.

Sure enough, at bed time during our prayers, the topic came up. We weren’t great at hiding our own unsettled feelings. And then we said our bedtime prayers. And our prayers ended as they always do.

“We pray that Jesus would watch over us and keep us safe.”

We struggled with those words. We struggled with those words because they seemed so hollow, and they were words that were difficult to reconcile with the news of the day.

Many in the Chippewa Valley, parents and non-parents alike, are hungering in a different way than the basic, “feed people who are hungry kind of way.”

We are hungry for answers. We are hungry for clarity. We are hungry for how to move forward in this world we are in. We are hungry to make sense of something so heinous. And, we are hungry together.

And, we are hungry because those things that are faith would have us so easily say, seem so difficult to attain. We are in the Easter season, Christ is risen indeed, and we seek those resurrection encounters, but this week as a larger community we find ourselves firmly entrenched in the Holy Saturday wondering what, if anything, good will come of this.

There are signs of hope.

There are signs of a community rallying to support those who need support.

There are signs of a community coming together to embrace those who need an embrace and embracing itself all the same.

Amid those signs there is still that painful knowing that nothing will bring that life back.

Amid the grasp for hope there is still that desire to be able to fix it when the reality is we simply can't.

And, in all of it, there is the call to admit that. To admit that we are broken. To admit that the troubles of this world trouble us. To admit that we wish we had it all together. And, to admit that that is okay.

Amid the brokenness, the unknowing, and the trouble of the world is still the call to "follow me."

Feed the hungry, whatever that may look like.

Tend the flock, wherever that tending is needed.

And it is in that call where we find the hope, the hope that can only come from the resurrected Christ. Community. We find hope being wrapped in a community that weeps when we weep and allows us to struggle with the realities of the world when they seem too much to bare.

And that hope comes from Christ's call to follow, to love, to feed, and to care.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

**Song of the Day      My Life Flows On in Endless Song"**

**#763**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Offering**

## **Offertory Prayer**

Living God,  
you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together  
in your peaceable reign,  
and you welcome us all at your table.  
Reach out to us through this meal,  
and show us your wounded and risen body,  
that we may be nourished and believe  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Holy One of new beginnings, fill us with new life. Send us into the world as you sent your apostles Philip and James, to invite people to come and see your wondrous acts in Christ. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Revive ecosystems along coastlands that have been devastated by natural forces and human negligence. Reestablish plant and animal life that purifies air and water and that feeds humans and other living creatures. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Accompany laborers who get little rest from their work. Give them hope when they struggle to produce what they need. Give all who labor fair treatment and just wages. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Restore all people who cry to you for help (*especially for Gena, Peyton, Kathy, Matt, Bob and Joanne, Jim and Sandy, Bob and Kay, Joe, Bill and Bonnie, David, Cassie, Keith and JoJo, Sherm and Mary, Frank and Heather, Verna, Bob and Sonja, Irene*). Turn their mourning into dancing, clothe them with joy, and put a testimony of healing and praise on their lips. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Be present to faithful ones who are persecuted for following you (*and especially the church in . . .*). Sustain them by your faithfulness, and give them strength in the name of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Join our voices with angels, creatures, and all the saints in praising Christ and bestowing upon him all blessing and honor and glory. Reveal Christ's glory to us and through us in our worship. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **Words of Institution**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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**

### **Communion**

**Prayer**

We give you thanks, generous God,  
for in this bread and cup  
we have tasted the new heaven and earth  
where hunger and thirst are no more.  
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,  
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

**Blessing**

God, the Author of life,  
Christ, the living Cornerstone,  
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song****"I Know That My Redeemer Lives!"****#619 vs. 1,2,6,8****Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Tell what God has done.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Announcements****Ruby's Pantry**

We will have Ruby's Pantry here next week - May 5. The truck should arrive by 2:30 p.m. and we have distribution until 5:30 (or until gone). If you haven't been able to help out and would like to know more, call the church office or just come and be a part of this neighborhood volunteer event. Or you can purchase a bundle for \$25 - this is a drive through event.

If you have boxes we could use (not too big or small!), drop them off at the church Monday-Thursday 8-3:30.

**Thank you!**

A sincere thank you to those who came and helped Bob Anderson celebrate his 100th birthday last week. Special thanks from Kris to Heather, Kay and staff for getting things set up, closing and everything in between.