

**Church of the Divine Love**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**MAY 1, 2022**

**10:15 AM**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#460 – Alleluia! sing to Jesus! vs. 1-4**

Opening Acclamation for Easter page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)**

Psalm 30

Second Lesson: **Revelation 5:11-14**

Gradual Hymn – **#412 – Earth and all stars**

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

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#492 – Sing, ye faithful**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 362
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – <b>#343 – Shepherd of souls</b>	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn <b>#561 – Stand up, stand up, for Jesus</b>	
Dismissal	

### **Sermon Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

Acts 9: 1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

#### **Sisters and brothers in Christ,**

What have the past two weeks been like for you? Have you seen and experienced resurrection in your life? What does it look like? Here's why I'm asking. Two weeks ago, we celebrated the day of Jesus' resurrection. Two weeks ago, the stone was rolled away, the tomb was found to be empty, and Jesus was seen alive. And here's my question. Are you more alive now? Am I? What difference has the resurrection made in us? I am not asking about what difference it might make in some distant heavenly future. I am asking about our lives today, here, now.

I sometimes wonder if we make such a big deal about the resurrection that it's difficult to recognize it in our own lives. I wonder if we make such a big deal about the rolled away stone, such a big deal about the empty tomb, and such a big deal about Jesus being alive that we lose sight of the resurrection in our lives. We look for and expect it to be an equally big deal kind of thing in our lives. Maybe that's the problem. Maybe that's why it's sometimes difficult to recognize resurrection in our lives here and now. John begins today's gospel (John 21:1-19) by telling us that Jesus "showed himself in this way." John then sets the third appearance of Jesus to his disciples amidst ordinary circumstances. He returns the disciples to their old routines. He gives a lot of small, seemingly unnecessary, and even strange details. John could just have easily said, "While the disciples were fishing, they saw Jesus on the shore. This was his third appearance." But he didn't. Instead, John focuses on the details in which Jesus showed himself; so maybe we should too. That's what I want to do today. I want to explore the details John gives us in today's gospel. I want to play with the images in a way that I hope will help us recognize the resurrection of Jesus in the details of our own lives.

The disciples have returned home. They've gone back to fishing. They've moved from the empty tomb to their boats, from the house in Jerusalem to the familiar waters of the Sea of Tiberias. They've traveled some 70 or 80 miles from the place of Jesus' resurrection and given themselves to their old routine of fishing. They've returned to the same boats, the same nets, the same water, the same work. That's when and where Jesus showed himself. It's now two weeks after Easter Sunday and I'm betting we've all returned to the routine of our lives. That's when and where we can expect Jesus to show himself to us. Resurrection does not happen apart from the routines of life but in them. Resurrection is not about escaping life but about becoming alive.

They fished through the darkness, but their nets were empty. "That night they caught nothing." The darkness, however, was not just about the night sky. The darkness was also in the disciples. In the same way, the empty net is not only descriptive of their fishing efforts it's descriptive of the disciples themselves. They are as empty as their nets. Who here hasn't experienced that darkness and emptiness? You know what that's like. You fish, you work, you do your best, but you still come up empty. In those times we have come to the limits of our own self-sufficiency. We have nothing to show for our efforts and nothing left to give. We're empty. That's when Jesus, still unrecognized by the disciples, shows himself and says, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" That's not so much a question as it is a statement. Within Jesus' words I hear the echo of Mary's voice at the wedding in Cana when she said to Jesus, "They have no wine" (John 2:3). Empty nets. Empty jars. No wine, no fish, no life. That's when Jesus showed himself. Nets and jars cannot be filled unless they are first emptied. In the same way we can never be filled with Jesus until we are first emptied of ourselves, until we come to recognize the limits of our own self-sufficiency. The emptiness is not the end or a failure but a beginning. The miracle begins when the wine runs out. Jesus shows up when the nets are empty. So let me ask you this. What are your empty nets today? What wine jars have run dry? Don't throw the jars away and don't abandon your nets. They are the very places Jesus is showing himself to you. They will be places of resurrection – jars overflowing with the best wine and nets filled with large fish, and fish to nourish your life.

As soon as Jesus is recognized naked Peter gets dressed and jumps in the water. We probably could have gone a long time without needing to know that Peter was naked. It's a strange and seemingly unnecessary detail. So, I have to wonder if John isn't telling us something more than that Peter wasn't wearing any clothes. The last time Peter got out of the boat was preceded by him saying, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water" (Matthew 14:28). Not this time, however. Today is different. There are no conditions, no demands, no requests for a miracle. Peter simply gets dressed. I wonder though if he is doing more than clothing his nakedness. Peter is clothing himself with courage, clothing himself with joy, clothing himself with an urgency for Jesus. Fully clothed, he now plunges himself into the waters of new life. What places or circumstances of your life need to be clothed with courage or joy? What new possibilities would open to you? What does a life clothed in courage, joy, and urgency for Christ mean for you? Whatever your answers might be they are the places and ways in which Jesus is showing himself to you.

Jesus shows himself to us in the charcoal fires of our guilt, regrets, and betrayals. Those fires, however, have been extinguished and a new fire kindled. That's true for Peter, for you, and for me. The Bread of Life himself has prepared a place for us at the table. The last supper has become the first breakfast and the charcoal fire of denial has become a charcoal fire of welcome and invitation. What looked like endings have become new beginnings. For most of us shared meals also mean shared conversation, and

so it does for Peter and Jesus. It was a conversation about love, freedom, and moving forward. "Do you love me?" Jesus asks Peter, not once but three times. One question for each of Peter's denial. Three times Peter gives the same answer, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." And I think he did. I think Jesus knew that Peter loved him, but Peter needed to know that he loved Jesus. Peter needed to understand that he was not bound to or identified by his past. How many of us also need to hear, understand, and experience that again and again as if for the very first time? That's another detail or circumstance of our lives in which Jesus is showing himself.

With each question-and-answer Jesus drew Peter from his past and freed him to become himself and to be more fully alive. Isn't that really what today's gospel has been about? It's the same story being told through the many different details and circumstances of our lives. Jesus showed himself in the empty nets that were filled with large fish, the darkness that gave way to light, nakedness that was clothed, a charcoal fire of denial that became a fire of welcome and invitation, a last supper that became a first breakfast, and three denials that were forgiven with three affirmations of love. The gospel details are our life's details. It's as if John has given us a paper with a bunch of dots on it, each one a particular detail or circumstance, and now our work is to connect the dots with the lines of our lives. And when we do, we discover resurrection. We discover that we have a future, our life has been guaranteed by Christ's life, and he has shown himself to us. **Amen.**

### Masks optional with social distance seating

3 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	
MONDAY	8:00 AM	AA MEETING	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING	
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
4 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

## PARISH PRAYER LIST

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Carol K.	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
Julia	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Grace Schinella
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Sylvia
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Del	Dorothy
People of Haiti	Chrissy Neville	Tim
Theresa K.	People of Ukraine	Amy E.
Nathan Treadwell	Christopher & Family	Tony
Maggie & Family		

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom.  
Amen

### Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,  
Lay my life before you,  
How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus and third verse starting with Spirit.

### Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions and glory, now and for ever. Amen

