

Church of the Divine Love

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 4, 2025 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

A Morning Prayer – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation 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 #

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

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Confession page 393

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn #

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace (on insert)

Prayer for the Parish page 817

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn #

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday May 4th, 2025

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

Esteemed Sisters and brothers in Christ, I want to begin by asking a couple of questions about the Easter story. Here's my first question. It's pretty simple. If I asked you tell the Easter story, what would you say? How would you tell it?

Most of us, I suspect, would talk about Jesus and his death and resurrection. We might offer some details about the crucifixion but we'd probably focus on the empty tomb. We might talk about the stone having been rolled away from the tomb, and the announcement, "He is not here, but has risen." Some might add Jesus' appearances to the disciples in the house, at the beach, on the road to Emmaus. The story we'd probably tell is at the heart of the Easter acclamation: "Alleluia. Christ is risen." We know that story well. Here's my second question about the Easter story. How would you tell the Easter story without mentioning the name Jesus or talking about what happened to him? What would you say? I

think that second question is at the heart of today's gospel (**John 21:1-19**) and that it just might be the more important and relevant question. After all, as I asked on Easter Sunday, what good is it to us if the stone has been rolled away from Jesus' tomb but not ours? What good is it to us if Jesus is free of his grave clothes but we are not? What good is it to us if Jesus is raised from the dead but we are not?

That's why I said then that I did not want us to leave believing the Easter story. I wanted us to leave living the Easter story. So let me ask my second question again but a bit differently. How would you tell the Easter story if you could only talk about yourself and your life? What would you say? How have you experienced Easter the last couple of weeks? What difference is Easter making in your life today? Is your life today different from what it was before Easter? If so, how? And if not, why not? We celebrated Easter two weeks ago but are we participating in it? Are we eastering? It's easy to celebrate Easter. The difficulty is participating in Easter. If we're not participating in Easter then celebrating Easter doesn't really mean much. It's just a beautiful church service followed by a nice lunch with family and friends. The temptation or risk is that you and I celebrate Easter Sunday and then return to the same old life and do the same old things in the same old way. Isn't that what Peter and the others do in today's gospel? Peter has seen the empty tomb. He and most of the others have seen Jesus twice. Both times Jesus appeared to them in the house. And both times there were hiding behind locked doors, afraid. Today Peter says to Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, and two other disciples, "I am going fishing." And they say to Peter, "We will go with you." They've gone back to what is known and familiar. They've gone back to what they did before. They've gone back to their old lives. That is not a criticism or judgment of them. I don't think the problem is that they went back to what is known and familiar, to what they did before, or to their old lives. That's where Easter happens. That's the very place Jesus, the divine life, shows up for them. And what if that's true for you and me? What if Easter happens in the same old life we had before?

Easter is not an escape from ourselves or our life. Easter returns us to ourselves and our life but with the possibility of being different and doing life in a new way. The problem is that Peter and the others went back to the same old life without changing. They are doing today the same old thing in the same old way as they've always done, and the nets of their lives are empty. "That night they caught nothing" (**John 21:3**). You know what that's like, right? I do. I know the craziness and futility of doing the same old thing in the same old way and expecting something to change but it never does. That's what's going on when we're stuck, when patterns of thinking and behavior become ruts of conformity to another time or person, when the questions we are asking are too small for our life and the choices we are making diminish our life. What if participation in Easter means going back to our same old life and doing the same old things but in new ways. "Cast the net to the right side of the boat," Jesus tells Peter and the others (**John 21:6**). It's as if Jesus is telling them to keep doing what they are doing but do it differently. What would it mean for you to cast the nets of your life to the right side of the boat? Keep fishing but do it differently. Keep living your life but live it differently.

Wonder if we have been fishing on the wrong side of the boat? Jesus seems to think so. “Cast your net to the right side of the boat,” Jesus says, the resurrection side of the boat. This movement of the net from one side of the boat to the other symbolizes the disciples’ resurrection. It is the great Passover. Jesus calls us to move out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. In so doing we see and proclaim, “It is the Lord,” and emptiness gives way to the abundance of a net full of fish, large ones, a hundred fifty-three of them; darkness dawns a new day with new light; a new charcoal fire kindles hospitality in place of the cold ashes of rejection; the last supper has become the first breakfast; confessions of love overcome denials of fear. What would that look like in your marriage, relationships, parenting? How would that change your priorities and concerns? In what ways would that let you be gentler and more compassionate with yourself and others? What new opportunities would it set before you? How might that let you move out of the stuck places in your life? Imagine the ways it could deepen love and relationships. It would allow us to reclaim ourselves and the life we most deeply desire. It would free another to do the same. It would open the door to depth, meaning, and purpose. And the nets of our lives would be full (**John 21:6**).

But here’s the thing. Easter life will not happen for you or me without an effort on our part. Peter and the others have to move the net to the other side of the boat. Even if the stone gets rolled away from our tomb you and I have still got to make the effort to stand up and walk out. What is the little effort you are making today because of Easter? Now that it is Easter, what is the effort you can or need to make? What effort is Easter asking of you today?

I can’t tell you what that effort is or should be for you. That’s your work. This is your life and resurrection. But I can tell you this. Your answers to those questions are how you begin telling the Easter story without mentioning the name Jesus or talking about what happened to him. It’s how you begin to recognize and tell your Easter story. Resurrection is in the details. That’s true in today’s gospel and in our lives. 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.**

All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church.

3 EASTER

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

11:15 AM

VESTRY MEETING

MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
FRIDAY	7:00 PM	IMPROV GROUP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
4 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Jess Berbeck	Roe Prosser
Coffee Hour	Jess Berbeck	Dana Kenn

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	John Roccoo	Deb P.

John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Bobby
Manetta Family	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Dorothy	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Vincent & Barbara	Ciara
Mary & Family	Wendy	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Sophia
Michael & Family	Kristen	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Christopher	Annie
Jerry & Family	Shannon & Family	Donna A.
Moises Parra	Misael Varas	Joseph

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure.

Help us to speak word of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.

Bring us, with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email

Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

A Morning Prayer

Father in heaven, I stand ready to receive Your wisdom and guidance. In each decision, big or small, lead me to discern your will and to act accordingly. Help me to understand the depth of Your wisdom, finding guidance in Your word and through prayer. Teach me to be patient as I wait for Your direction, trusting that Your timing is perfect. May I navigate this day with the assurance that Your wisdom is a treasure far greater than any earthly knowledge. Guide my thoughts and actions, that they may be a reflection of Your discernment and love. In Your guidance, I find the path to a life of purpose and peace.

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

