

But then our loving heavenly Father invites us to come to Him. "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him" (Psalm 103:13). "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18).

So today take whatever is broken to the One who can fix all things. Take your guilt to Him in repentance and pray with the tax collector, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Then see how He has fixed the greatest of all problems through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.



He is Risen!

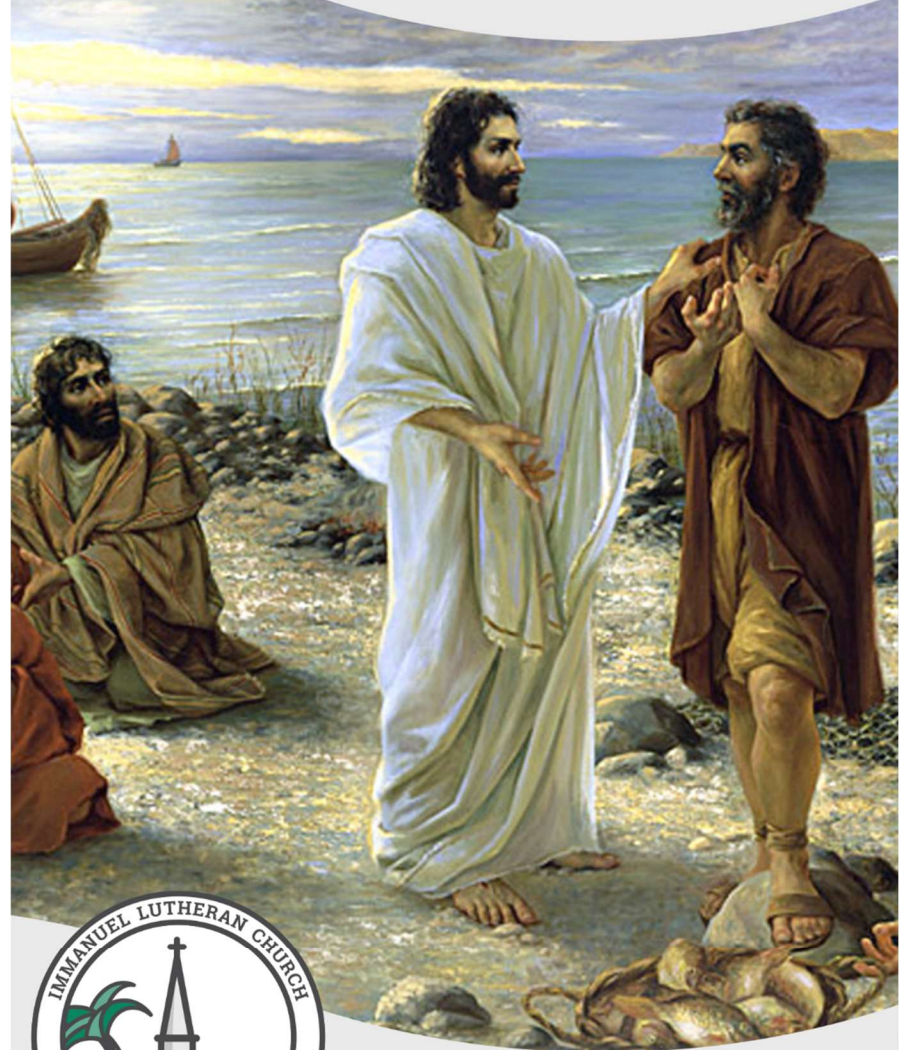
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Easter 3

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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Psalm 4

¹ I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me. ² O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. ³ O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. ⁴ Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. ⁵ For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. ¹¹ You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, ¹² that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: TLH #188 "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C *♫* A - - - men.

P Pastor

C Congregation

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C *♫* **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C *♫* **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

C *♫* **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

HYMN: WS #735

"Long Before the World is Waking"

PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, and BENEDICTION

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C *♫* Amen, amen, a – men.

HYMN: TLH #189

"He is Arisen! Glorious Word!"

Psalm 34:18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

BEYOND REPAIR?

My dad could fix anything. At least I thought so when I was growing up. A favorite toy would break. A board game would fall apart. Later on, my car would lose a muffler or need a battery replaced. It would look pretty hopeless to me, but I knew where to go. I would take it to Dad with the question, "Can you fix this, please?" And he would.

Toys, games, and even vehicles are simple to fix compared to broken lives. Where do you turn when feelings are hurt and broken by the words of others? How do you fix the mistakes you've made? What if you've made such a mess of things that there seems to be no possible way out? What if no one seems to care? What if you deserve nothing but punishment?

That is where all of us are by nature. The good we ought to do, we don't do. The evil we know we shouldn't do, we do anyway. James warns: "**Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it" (James 2:10)**. What we have broken we cannot possibly fix. It doesn't matter how sorry we are, how much we would like to undo things, or how hard we might try to make up for our wrongs. We can't fix them.

but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ 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. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. ⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ **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." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved 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. ¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹ (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."**

**Life's Most Important Question:
"Do You Love Me?"**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪ A - - - men.

INTROIT

Ps. 154:4-7, 9-10

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

P All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless you!

C **Our generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.**

P On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate.

C **They shall speak of the might of Your awesome deeds, and I will declare Your greatness.**

P They shall pour forth the fame of Your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

C **The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.**

GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory be to the Father"

C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Rom. 6:9; Luke 24:32

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raise from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord"

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

♩ All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

P Let us pray. O Almighty God, we pray that by Your grace You will help us continue to celebrate our Lord's resurrection by bearing its fruits in every aspect of our daily life. This we pray through the Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

♩ A - - - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Job 19:25-27 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

EPISTLE READING – 1 Peter 1:17-2:3 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb

without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you. ¹ So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation-- ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles.

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #206:1-5

"Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"

SERMON – John 21:1-19 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³ 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,