

**Martin Luther Chapel Lutheran Church, Pennsauken, NJ / 5 May 2019**

Church Time: Easter: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Color: White

Divine Service: I

Introit: Psalm 145: 4 7, 9 verse 10

First Reading: Acts 9: 1 - 11

Psalm 30 antiphon: verse 11b - 12a

Gradual: adapted from Matthew 28:7, Hebrews 2: 7, Psalm 8: 6

Verses: Romans 6: 9, Luke 24: 32

Second Reading: Revelations 5: (1-5) 8 - 14

Gospel: John 21: 1 - 14 (15 - 19)

**Hymn of the Day (HotD) 452 / With High Delight Let Us Unite**

Opening Hymn: 517 / By All Your Saints In Warfare (Stanzas: 1, 10, 3)

Sermon Hymn: 452 / With High Delight Let Us Unite

Distribution Hymn: 688 / "Come, Follow Me," The Savior Spake

482 / This Joyful Eastertide

411 / I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light

629 / What Is This Bread

Closing Hymn: 826 / Hark, The Voice Of Jesus Crying

Acolyte: (Primary) Martin / (Alternate)

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

(5 May 2019)

Acts 9:1–22

Revelation 5:(1–7) 8–14

John 21:1–14 (15–19)

### ***The Good Shepherd Feeds His Lambs***

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain”* (Rev. 5:12), who by His cross has conquered sin and death. With His blood, He has *“ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation”* (Rev. 5:9). This same Lord Jesus visits people of all nations and calls them to Himself by the Gospel, even as He *“was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead”* (John 21:14). He restored Simon Peter to faith and life, and He commissioned him to feed His lambs and tend His sheep (John 21:15–17). Likewise, He revealed Himself to Saul of Tarsus and brought him to repentance, so that the persecutor of Jesus might carry and confess His name *“before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel”* (Acts 9:15).

**Gospel Reading:** John 21: 1 – 14 (15 – 19)

### **Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples**

<sup>1</sup> After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. <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.

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<sup>4</sup> Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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<sup>[a]</sup> off.

<sup>9</sup> When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out 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, 153 of them. And although 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 ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

## **Jesus and Peter**

<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." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> 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." <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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."

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<sup>19</sup> (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."

**Footnotes:**

- a. [John 21:8](#) Greek *two hundred cubits*; a *cubit* was about 18 inches or 45 centimeters

**Sermon Text:** *John 21: 1 - 14 (15 - 19).*

**Sermon Title:** "Children, do you have any fish?"

My brothers and sisters in Christ, St John records the events of this morning's

Gospel reading

 as the third time our risen Lord has

 **come**

 and **called out**

 and **had fellowship** with His brothers.


 The resurrected One **announced "Peace be with you"**

 when He **appeared to them**

 on the evening of the first day of the week

 while they gathered behind locked doors for fear of the Jews.

 The Good Shepherd **announced it again**

 eight days later

 when He **appeared in their midst**

 while they gathered behind locked doors with St Thomas.


 Our risen Lord

 **always came** to them,

 **spoke affectionately** to them,

 **and reaffirmed His love** for them.

† The love that **endured**

 **horrific suffering**

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and a grisly death


† that **steadfastly confirmed** itself in His **resolute fellowship** with them.

 Our risen Lord

 **stands** in our midst

 this morning,


 **affirming that His affection and love** for you and me are **no less**.

 This morning our risen Lord calls to you and me, “Children, do you have any fish?”

St John shared with us in the previous chapter

 that Jesus preformed many mighty works in the presence of His disciples

 but, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,

 recorded only what is sufficient for our faith.

 The Messiah **stood on the bank** of the Sea of Tiberias


 early that morning,


 **calling to His exhausted and disheartened disciples**

† who appeared to have returned to their previous vocations as “catchers of fish”

† instead of faithfully clinging to **His charter to be “catchers of men.”**

 Then, the Incarnate Word of God **spoke and creation responded:**

 men cast the tool that had proven incapable of capturing fish all night into the sea;

 fish rushed to the right side of their boat;

 limited arms and hands wrestle with a net

† that encircled and drew in such numbers

† that it struggled under the labor of men to



draw it



and its load of fish –



fish that had successfully avoided it all night.

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 Both man and fish appeared incapable to accomplish what God commanded.  
 While that physical miracle was underway the **greater miracle was occurring:**

 Jesus was **drawing them to Himself,**  
† **proving His words are the effective and undeniable “net”**  
† **that draws lost and dead souls**

 to Himself

 and **the true and eternal life that radiates from Him.**

 Confessions of faith were immediately made with spoken words and deeds.

† John, who outran Peter on the morning of that first day, proclaims it is the Lord.

† Peter, who arrived at the empty tomb after John on that morning, rushed forward into the sea and arrived first to the Holy One of God.


 The risen LORD is the only one

 **in command of mind and emotion**


 while the disciples appeared awash in

† joy

† and hesitation.

 Our King **commanded**

 that part of the bounty He provided be brought forward

 and join His gracious and generous provision at His table

 while their voices failed to confess what they

† knew and believed.

Jesus **stands in our midst and calls to us:** “Children, do you have any fish?”

 **knowing that He has provided**

 and **is providing** what we have

† struggled for

† and failed to accomplish with our own

 reason

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and strength.



The Holy One **graciously and firmly** calls us,



catchers of men,



to the good work of

† continually casting the net –

† proclaiming the Gospel.



Our Lord **calls us** to



trust Him



and joyfully and continually cast the net

† into the darkness

† knowing that



**He watches** over us



and **blesses** us and our labors.



Our Good Shepherd **provides all we need to support our body and spirit:**



Family - home – food - work to sustain and strengthen our bodies;



and His Word and Sacraments to sustain, strengthen, safeguard and comfort

us



as His Spirit

† **cleanses** us from the profane

† and **builds** us up with His holiness.



Our great Physician **reminds us** that



the darkness of our hearts,



the apathy and hostility of unbelieving men,



and the plots and schemes of the evil one all work to

† distract us ,

† disappoint us,

† discourage us,

† and depress us

† in the midst of

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our failures, setbacks, fatigue,



and a lack of visible and physical proof that our labors are catching anyone.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, this morning Our Lord and God **looks at you and me and asks**, "Children, do you have any fish?"



Then He **takes us in His strong arms and asks**: "Do you love Me?"



He **came to us** when we sought Him not.



He **provides us**

† **good, meaningful, and exhausting work** in His kingdom

† **with the Gospel** that we are to continue to cast into the darkness of lost



family members,



friends



and neighbors.



He **feeds us** with His Word and Sacraments while **graciously adding** the fruits of our labors.



He **reaffirms the good work He provides** us in His family this day.



He **reminds us of the crosses** we will bear

† in such work

† while we struggle with



the inadequacy of our love



and the certainty of our

† sufferings

† and deaths.



Therefore, by the **power of the Holy Spirit** let us answer Him with



our thoughts,



words,



and deeds:

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“Yes.”



And then again cast the Gospel net into the darkness of this lost and dying world.

Amen and Amen