

ILCW Year-C Scripture Lessons for the ✘ Third Sunday of Easter

First Lesson

Acts 9:1-20 NIV

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. 10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. 11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." 13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." 15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." 17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord -- Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here -- has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Epistle

Revelation 5:11-14

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and honor and glory and praise!" 13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" 14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Gospel (Sermon Text)

John 21:1-14

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. 7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Our Savior Lutheran Church ▲ Lakeland, FL, USA
(Easter 3-C) ✚ *Misericordias Domini – Easter Joy*
April 14, 2013 ✚ 10 am



Woodcut illustration from 1695 Bible – John 10: Jesus, the Good Shepherd, risks His own life and limb to protect His sheep and lambs from the wolves.

Courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
www.pitts.emory.edu/DIA/detail.cfm?ID=6815

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

6920 N. Socrum Loop Road—in north Lakeland, Florida

Mailing address: P. O. Box 91905—Lakeland, FL 33804-1905

PHONE (863) 859-3400— www.osllakeland.com

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:30 AM

Pastor Andrew Burmeister (863) 430-5859

Organist: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

April 14, 2013 Easter 3C *Misericordias Domini*

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time, we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. If you are seeking a church home, our pastor would be glad to share information about our church with you and discuss membership at your convenience. Come and worship with us again! Thank you.

ORDER OF SERVICE *(See insert.)*

PLEASE NOTE: The service folder insert has been written so that it may be used more than once. If you prefer to use the hymnal, see page 5. Feel free to leave the service folder insert with an usher after the service. Thank you. May the Lord bless your worship!

Service		
Opening Hymn	540 (5v)	With the Lord Begin Thy Task
Hymn of Day	210 (5v)	The Strife is O'er The Battle Done
Sermon	John 21:1-14	<i>(Christ Is Risen Indeed) "...So NOW What?!"</i>
Offering Hymn	400, v1&6	Take My Life and Let It Be
Sending Hymn	476 (4v)	Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand
Closing Hymn	47 (4v)	Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Dan Elwing (former member)
Tyler Kirby (nephew of Andrea Sawyer)
Richard Birkenmeier
Madeline Beck
Patty & Buster Brewbaker
George Wendt (brother of Steve Wendt.)
Jonathan Jumper (grandson of Elaine Jones.).
Ann Wentz
Mariah Sawyer

Volunteers	This week	Next week
Greeter	Ernie & Jeanette Kubly	Elaine Jones
Usher	(Volunteer)	(Volunteer)
Treats	Nancy Durn	Robin Dux

COFFEE will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to stay! We thank our volunteers for serving today. We are IN NEED OF SERVERS for future Sundays. If you can help, PLEASE SIGN UP. Thanks!

Statistics	Last week	Year to date (average)
Sunday Worship	47	42
Communion Attendance	38	31
Sunday Bible Class	12	8
Thursday Bible Class	11	9
Sunday Offering	\$	(YTD total) \$

Calendar of Events		
Sunday, 4/14	10:30 am 10:45 am	Special meeting for special offering Fellowship
Thursday 4/18	6:30 pm	Bible Class at Madeline Beck's
Sunday, 4/21	8:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 am	Bible Class Worship <u>with Holy Communion</u> Fellowship

Congregational Notes

Please contact our Elders with any concerns about church matters: **Jim Vanesky 644-7807, John Weber 853-5458, & Don Wienke 863-815-8892.**

Installation of Pastor Andy Burmeister

What a great day it was all last Sunday when we as a congregation installed our new pastor. Both the Sunday morning worship and the special installation service at 4:00pm were wonderful, uplifting events. The potluck dinner following the installation was also very tasty and another great fellowship opportunity for both Our Savior members and the many visitors ... and the chicken was *free!* Thank you *all* for the effort you all made to ensure the great day we had. -Your Pastor Andy

Much Thanks Pastor Huhnerkoch & Pastor Winters

We again want to thank Pastor Herb who served so faithfully as vacancy pastor the past six months. We also appreciate and thank Pastor Richard for his service to us in the recent midweek Lent services. Please keep both Pastors Huhnerkoch and Winters in your prayers as they now resume or get back to their normal respective lives.

Pastor Andy's contact details:

Address:
4355 Corporate Avenue, #169
Lakeland, FL 33809
 Phone:
863 430-5859
 Email:
anderuu@gmail.com

EASTER3(C) John 21:1-14 “CHRIST IS RISEN ... So NOW WHAT?” 03.14.13

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

INTRODUCTION: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! ... (but)... SO NOW WHAT?!

(Lent, then...) We celebrated Easter (two weeks ago – hold up lily) and Jesus' Resurrection. We even **installed a NEW pastor** last Sunday. But now on this third Sunday of Easter, more or less the question is, **“What now?”** We've pretty much got it nailed down that Jesus is risen from the dead. **So now what are we supposed to do?**

So, **What do you do when** you've seen the Lord Jesus newly risen from the dead? Seven out of eleven disciples apparently go fishing. Jesus did tell them to wait, so while you're waiting, you might as well fish and make a little money. The episode reads a bit like the movie “Ground Hog Day,” the Bill Murray movie where every day keeps repeating itself. They go out, fish all night, catch nothing. In the morning, there is Jesus, risen from the dead, standing on the shore. “Catch anything?” “No.” “Cast your net on the right side of the boat; you'll catch something there.”

Sound familiar? Of course. This is a repeat of the day Jesus said to the four fishermen, “Follow me.” John remembered and recognized Jesus. Peter throws himself into the sea. And the other disciples haul in a net load of fish - 153 of them.

When they come ashore, breakfast is already on. Jesus the Host, the Feeder. A feast of bread and fish. **Sound familiar? Of course.** This is a repeat of the days that Jesus fed four and five thousand in the wilderness with miraculously multiplied bread and fish. Not much of miracle here, except, where did Jesus get the bread or the fish or the charcoal? Never mind all that, He's the Lord of creation. He knows where the fish are; He holds all the bread and fish of the world in His hands.

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. (Does that also) **Sound familiar? Of course.** It's a reprise of the **upper room** on the night He was betrayed, and the Emmaus road, and all the other times Jesus took bread and broke it and gave it to His disciples. This is how He reveals Himself - **at a meal, in the breaking of the bread.**

(Some English translations have) **“Children,** do you have any fish?” He calls these grown men “children,” the term a kind master would use for his servants, or a rabbi his students. **“No”** they answer. “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you'll find some.” So they did. Remarkably, they follow the suggestion of this stranger shouting to them from the shore, not knowing it was Jesus. And just as before, their nets came up busting full of fish. And the light goes off with John. **“It is the Lord!”** John recognizes Jesus from the miraculous catch of fish.

This is part of their instruction - a post-Resurrection graduate seminar in discipleship. A disciple never truly “graduates” anyway, at least until he or

she dies. A confirmand is **not** “finished” on their Confirmation day. Even these seven disciples, who spent three solid years walking and talking with Jesus, who were **eyewitnesses** of His Resurrection and **earwitnesses** of His teaching, need a(nother) little object lesson. **“Do it my way,”** Jesus is saying, “and you're nets will be full. But do it your way, and you're going to come up empty and all your hard work will be for nothing.”

The Church still needs to learn this lesson, **today more than ever.** Stop and think about it. **How** on earth were seven disciples from Galilee going to accomplish anything in the world of religion? How **are we** going to make any significant impact or dent in **today's world**? How is this little band of disciples going to bring the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection to the ends of Israel, much less to the ends of the world? How is the church going to survive the long centuries, with all the political and cultural and technological changes? **And the answer from the disciples' empty nets is very simply this:** Left on our own devices, no matter how clever, or how well intentioned, or how zealous we may be, **we will fail.** We'll work our tails off, but at the end of the shift, when we haul up our nets, we'll be **lucky to have so much as a couple of old shoes and a tire.**

While **church institutions** are struggling to fan the burning embers into a blaze of glory, and **program pushers** are hawking the latest book and DVD to put the church back on track, the Lord of the Church, Who **hung on a Cross to save the world and who rose from the dead** to show Himself victorious, cries out to His church scattered all over the world, and asks, **“Is anyone still interested in doing it MY way?”**

He took some bread, gave it to His disciples with the words, **“Take, eat; this is my body.”** He took a cup of wine, and gave it to His disciples with the words, **“Take, drink; this is my Blood of the New Testament.”** He said, **“Do this for my remembrance. Do this and you will remember me the way in which I wish to be remembered; and I will remember you.”** **Deceptively simple.** (But) **Easy to ignore and pass up. Don't be fooled.**

He said, **“Make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them, wash them with water in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to hold on to everything I've entrusted to you.”** **Baptize and teach. How hard can it be?** Don't try to change the world, or transform society, or even improve people or fix their problems. Just **baptize and teach** them. Give them My Body and Blood to eat and drink. Forgive their sins. Trust Me and My words, do it My way, and your nets will be busting full.

The disciples' nets were bursting full that day - **153 big ones.** Someone took the time and effort to count them and write down the number. It reminds us that this is **not** some kind of **legend or myth.** This is **an historical fact.** As factual as those **153 fish** in the net are, so is the Jesus standing on the seashore **Risen from the dead.**

One hundred and fifty three fish swim to their death at the word of Jesus. **Almost seems a bit cruel, doesn't it?** Not a sparrow falls from the air apart from the will of His Father. And not a fish swims into a net apart from

the Word of its Creator. He holds all things - the fish, the disciples, the world - and they are safe in His death. **Those fish are a picture of us**, caught in an apostolic net, captured by the Word of Jesus. Dead yet very much alive in Jesus. And what **safer place** could we be than **caught in the net of Jesus' death and Resurrection?**

!Now! The disciples knew who it was. **No one had to ask.** The miracle had Jesus' fingerprints all over it. Peter throws on a coat and dives headlong into the sea. No walking on water for Peter this time!

That too is a picture, I believe, of **us** in Holy Baptism, clothed with Christ, covered with His righteousness. *"For as many as were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ."* You wear Him like a **Baptismal** robe. He bore **your shame and sin** in nakedness on the Cross; the soldiers gambled for **His** clothing. **He gives YOU (His) clothing** to wear, to cover yourself. He clothes you with His perfection and righteousness so that God sees His Son when He looks at us!

... *"Come and have breakfast,"* Jesus **invites** them. He is **the Host** at **His Table**, they are His guests, **and so are we.** He gives them bread and fish to eat. This is Jesus, who conquered death and the grave, Who gives us His own Flesh to eat as bread, His own Blood to drink as wine, who is **the Bread of Life.**


That's how Jesus is recognized in His Resurrection. In the **breaking** of the bread. In His **feeding** His disciples. You wouldn't know Jesus to look at Him. We don't know what He looks like. You wouldn't know Him if you passed Him on the street or sat next to Him on a bus. But He makes Himself known by what He does, in the **Means of Grace**, what we call the Word and Sacraments, by which He reveals His death and Life **for you** - the water of Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Word preached and the proclamation of Forgiveness.


John's point, as it is throughout His Gospel, is that we are privileged to **have the greater signs** going on among us here today. Peter was clothed in a wet tunic and the sea. **We are clothed with Christ in our Baptisms.** The disciples ate bread and fish; we receive **Christ's Body and Blood.**

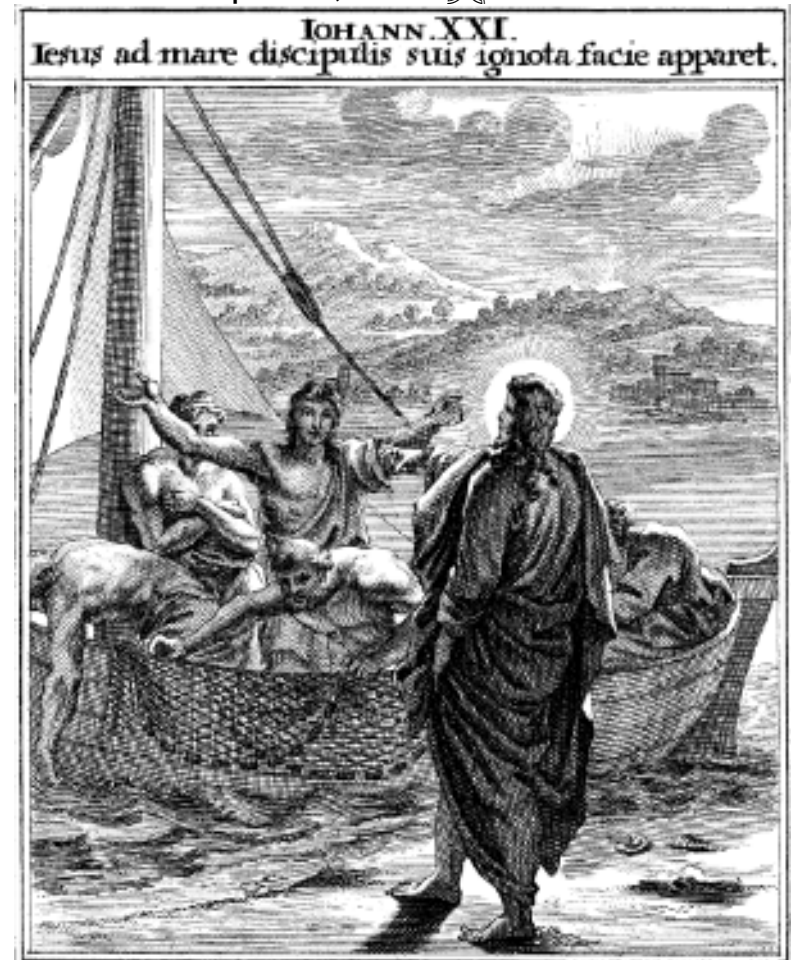
CONCLUSION I noticed Our church sign has my name on it (on one side anyway). You can almost see another SIGN or AD: **Now appearing at a Congregation near you:** Jesus Christ, Crucified and Risen from the dead. The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The Word that made you, the Word that redeems you. Appearing **in His Word**, in **Baptism**, in the bread that is **His Body** and the wine that is **His Blood.** The same Jesus who makes 153 big fish swim into a net and who feeds His disciples, who eats with sinners and justifies them in His death, gives us His **Body as bread, His Blood as wine, His Baptism as our death and life in Him, His Word of forgiveness and life.** Jesus stands on the near shore of the Resurrection, with a meal prepared, and says to you, **"Come and get it!"** What're you going to say, **"I'm not hungry. I'm busy. I don't feel like it. I don't feel the need."** Don't be **foolish.** Don't be **stubborn. unbelieving.**

"Come and get it!" Come and be **fed**, be **forgiven**, be **free.** He died and rose to save you, to welcome you, to embrace you, to clothe you, to feed you. Come to die and rise and join your voices with countless angels: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! And from here, let's go **a' fishing** like Peter, but for disciples. With Jesus on the "Resurrection shore," **the catch will surely be great.**

To Him be praise, honor, glory, and power, forever and ever. **Amen. SDG**

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL, USA
Easter3C **SERMON** † 2 weeks on, **"What to do NOW?!"**

April 14, 2013  10 am



Woodcut illustration from **1695 Bible – John 21: Risen Jesus** appears on the shore to His disciples after His Resurrection.