**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**May 1, 2022**



*“That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea.”*

*(John 21:7)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: God has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ

**P: Where, O death, is your victory?**

L: Death has been swallowed up in resurrection

**P: Where, O death, is your sting?**

L: Christ has indeed been raised from the dead

**P: The first fruits of those who have fallen asleep**

L: For this very reason Christ died and returned to life

**P: So that He might be the Lord of both the living and the dead**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Crown Him with Many Crowns” #272 (vv.1-4)

**Crown him with many crowns**

**The Lamb upon his throne**

**Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns**

**All music but its own**

**Awake, my soul, and sing**

**Of him who died for thee**

**And hail him as thy matchless king**

**Through all eternity**

**Crown Him the Lord of love Behold His hands and side**

**Rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified**

**No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight**

**But downward bends his wond’ring eyes at mysteries so bright**

**Crown him the Lord of life**

**Who triumphed o'er the grave**

**Who rose victorious to the strife**

**For those he came to save**

**His glories now we sing**

**Who died and rose on high**

**Who died eternal life to bring**

**And lives that death may die**

**Crown him the Lord of Heaven**

**One with the Father known**

**One with the Spirit thro’ Him given**

**From yonder glorious throne**

**To Thee be endless praise**

**For thou for us hast died**

**Be Thou, O Lord, thro’ endless days**

**Adored and magnified**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O Great Invisible God, we give you praise. All the works that you have made, are clearly seen and plain as day. Your power eternal, your nature divine; All creation tells the tale of your love for us. In the seed that descends to the old earth, and rises again with a new birth; the sweet story of resurrection. Mighty and tender God, let me remember whose grace makes us clean, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.”

The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”

But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.”

But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, also grants in us that same Spirit to be truly wise and ever rejoice in the consolation of Christ. May our hearts be rekindled, our spirits grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified...

**P: O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man, and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all truths which the Holy church teaches because you have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. I remain in you above all things with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon for all whom I have injured. Watch over us as we bow lowly and earnestly cry out to you. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 30

**P: I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “More Love to Thee” #463 (vv.1-3)

**More love to Thee, oh Christ, more love to Thee!**

**Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.**

**This is my earnest plea**

**More love, oh Christ, to Thee**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

**Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest**

**Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best.**

**This all my prayer shall be**

**More love, oh Christ to Thee**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

**Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise**

**This be the parting cry my heart shall raise**

**Still all my prayer shall be**

**More love, oh Christ to Thee**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

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

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

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

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.

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.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.”

He said to them, “Cast the net to 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 there were so many fish.

That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea.

But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.”

So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord.

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. 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.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt 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. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.”

(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

**Sermon:**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response****:** “Open My Eyes, That I May See” #461

**Open my eyes, that I may see**

**Glimpses of truth you have for me**

**Place in my hands the wonderful key**

**That shall unlock and set me free**

**Silently now, on bended knee**

**Ready I wait your will to see**

**Open my eyes, illumine me**

**Spirit divine**

**Open my ears, that I may hear**

**Voices of truth Thou sendest clear**

**And while the wave-notes fall on my ear**

**Ev’rything false will disappear**

**Silently now, on bended knee**

**Ready I wait your will to see**

**Open my ears, illumine me**

**Spirit divine**

**Open my mouth and let me bear**

**Gladly the warm truth ev’rywhere**

**Open my heart and let me prepare**

**Love with Thy children thus to share**

**Silently now, on bended knee**

**Ready I wait your will to see**

**Open my mouth, illumine me**

**Spirit divine**

**Open my mind, that I may read**

**More of Thy love in word and deed**

**What shall I fear while yet Thou dost lead**

**Only for light from Thee I plead**

**Ready I wait your will to see**

**Open my mind, illumine me**

**Spirit divine**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Come, Holy Ghost, Creator come. From thy bright heavenly throne, take possession of our souls and make them all thy own. May we in turn give all our possessions as our act of worship, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Sing with All the Saints in Glory” #666 (vv.1-4)

**Sing with all the saints in glory**

**Sing the resurrection song**

**Death and sorrow, earth's dark story**

**To the former days belong**

**All around the clouds are breaking**

**Soon the storms of time shall cease**

**In God's likeness we, awaking**

**Know the everlasting peace**

**O what glory, far exceeding**

**All that eye has yet perceived**

**Holiest hearts, for ages pleading**

**Never that full joy conceived**

**God has promised, Christ prepares it**

**There on high our welcome waits**

**Every humble spirit shares it**

**Christ has passed th'eternal gates**

**Life eternal! Heav’n rejoices**

**Jesus lives who once was dead**

**Shout with joy, O deathless voices**

**Child of God, lift up your head**

**Life eternal! Oh, what wonders**

**crowd on faith: what joy unknown**

**when amid earth’s closing thunders**

**saints shall stand before the throne**

**Life eternal O what wonders**

**Crowd on faith what joy we know**

**When amidst earth’s closing thunders**

**Saints shall stand before the throne**

**O to enter that bright portal**

**See that glowing firmament**

**Know with Thee O God immortal**

**Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent**

\*Benediction

L: The resurrection has given us new life and renewed hope. Be granted the wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.