

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
“I Am Jesus” Changes Everything
May 3 & 4, 2025

AS WE GATHER

Was there a more dramatic conversion story than with Saul of Damascus? Even the one who orchestrated the persecution and martyrdom of the first Christians surrenders to the power of Christ and His resurrection. Without Christ, all his knowledge of the Old Testament was incomplete, but in Christ, he is born anew by Baptism and the Spirit. Instead of turning his world upside down, at last Paul has his life right side up. We may not have experienced the drama of the Damascus road, but our lives have been set right in Christ fully and finally. Knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection means that all things have been made new and right with the Lord, for the living of this life and for the assurance of eternal life.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6: 9-11

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #480 “He’s Risen, He’s Risen”

He’s risen, He’s risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death’s prison, the incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.

The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.

But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden’s door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.

(Rise) Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: To you, O LORD, I cry,

People: and to the Lord I plead for mercy.

Pastor: For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime.

People: Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another.

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB p. 204

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father, in your great love you bestowed forgiveness upon Saul, and by your Spirit, you brought him to faith in your Son. Grant that we, too, may be rescued from unbelief and, by your grace, be granted the favor of your friendship and redemption to believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior, and to serve His purpose in all that we do; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

FIRST READING *Acts 9:1–22* ("Saul, why are you persecuting Me?")

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."¹¹ And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,¹² 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."¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem."¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.²⁰ And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying,

“He is the Son of God.”²¹ And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?”²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Revelation 5:1–14* (“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.”)

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it,⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.⁵ And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,¹² saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him

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who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 CHOIR ANTHEM *“Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 21:1–19* (After directing the disciples to a great catch of fish, Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

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, 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

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the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶He 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." ¹⁷He 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. ¹⁸Truly, 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."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"He Is Lord"

W&R 305

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!

Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! *Repeat*

SERMON HYMN #525 "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly 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 virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

7 continued

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in 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 heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

SERMON

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

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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.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

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And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Worthy are you, O Lord, to receive the praise and thanksgiving of your people. For you have sent your Son as the Lamb to ransom us by His blood and make us a kingdom of priests in your service. Bless your Church, that all we endeavor to do in your name may be in accord with your will. Accomplish your holy purpose in calling many joyfully to know your redemption. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Ever-living God, Thank you for the gift of life. We especially lift up to you John Brunner as he celebrates his 81st birthday. Thank you for making him, redeeming him and being with him throughout all of his days. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of all nations, you provided a miraculous catch of fish to the apostles and, much more, blessed their efforts as fishers of men. Continue to bless the Church as she spreads the Gospel and gathers in as many as would be saved. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, one generation of your saints commends your works to another. As we have received your glorious Gospel, grant all fathers and mothers strong and joyful faith to declare Your mighty acts to the generation to come. Keep all marriages intact, and we thank you for being with Gary and Wendy Knight as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. Thank you for their faithfulness and love they share with one another through you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord enthroned in heaven, you have ordered all the nations of the earth and have set your Church among them to shepherd them unto eternal life. Hear the prayers we continually offer for our rulers, and grant them faithful and peaceful governance. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of life, you are glorified in the sufferings of your faithful people. Teach us to trust you through all our trials and graciously bear up those who struggle among us, especially Paula, Katherine, Wendy, Jack, Kay, Rhonda, Harland, Liz, Jerry, June, Sharon, John, Debbie, Bob, Judy, Carole, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Cathy and Sarah, that they would know the fullness of your love. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Merciful God, you gave your Son to be the Lamb. He has given us His own flesh to be our food and His very blood to be our drink. Give us your Holy Spirit so that we who approach His table may receive His gifts with repentant hearts and faith, that what we receive with our lips we may keep in holy hearts and show forth in holy lives. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, you are holy, and you sanctify us in Christ. Give us strength during temptation, courage in times of fear, comfort in distress and resolve in the face of persecution. Help us to abound in hope in every circumstance; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise you on this day for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, with blessed Paul, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #464

“The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o’er, the battle done;

Now is the victor’s triumph won;

Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

The pow’rs of death have done their worst,

But Christ their legions hath dispersed.

Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped,

He rises glorious from the dead.

All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

He broke the age-bound chains of hell;

The bars from heav’n’s high portals fell.

Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,

From death’s dread sting Thy servants free

That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

HYMN #484**“Make Songs of Joy”**

Make songs of joy to Christ, our head; Alleluia!
 He lives again who once was dead! Alleluia!

Our life was purchased by His loss; Alleluia!
 He died our death upon the cross. Alleluia!

O death, where is your deadly sting? Alleluia!
 Assumed by our triumphant King! Alleluia!

And where your victory, O grave, Alleluia!
 When one like Christ has come to save? Alleluia!

Behold, the tyrants, one and all, Alleluia!
 Before our mighty Savior fall! Alleluia!

For this be praised the Son who rose, Alleluia!
 The Father, and the Holy Ghost! Alleluia!

HYMN #633 633 “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
 Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His piercèd side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
 Gives His body for the feast--Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death’s dread angel sheathes the sword;
 Israel’s hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;
 With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath You lie;
 You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
 You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
 From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O Lord, that you have rescued us from our rebellion and redeemed us from sin and its death. Grant us grace that we may keep in holy hearts and live out in holy lives what we have here received in the Word of the Gospel and the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, and preserve us in this faith even to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #680 “Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”

Preacher
 Liturgist
 Lectors
 Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
 Pastor Harold Bender
 Miriam Richardson, Debbie Nier
 Deaconess Carole King