



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship
May 1, 2022 9:30am



Saul on the road to persecute Christians, met by the Risen Christ.

Rev. Rennie Kaufmann – Pastor Karen Kaufmann – Administrator
Miss Esther Kaufmann – Student Ministries Coordinator and Worship Arts Assistant
Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – The story of Peter is interesting. It was Peter who first confessed Jesus as Lord—and Peter to whom Jesus said, “Get behind Me, Satan.” It was Peter who insisted he was not like the others and would never abandon Jesus—and Peter who denied the Lord three times. But Peter’s story is also the story of the mercy of God to forgive Peter, to restore him from his falls, and to set him apart for service. Every Christian is like Peter—an enemy of God through sin to whom the Lord has shown His friendship in the Gospel and transformed into His friend!

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation and Opening Sentences

Psalm 30:5; 145:9

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

C Amen.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The Lord is good to all,

C and His mercy is over all that He has made.

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

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

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

1. I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever living head.

2. He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

3. He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.

4. He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

Verses

All Your works shall give thanks to You, O Lord,
and all Your saints shall bless You!

One generation shall commend Your works to another,
and shall declare Your mighty acts.

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

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

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

The Lord is good to all,
and His mercy is over all that He has made.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

All Your works shall give thanks to You, O Lord,
and all Your saints shall bless You!

5. He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

6. He lives all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that My Redeemer lives!

Confession and Absolution

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

C **Merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We are dead in sin by our very nature. We have failed to do the good You have called us to do, and we have done the evil You forbid. We pray for pardon, peace, and forgiveness for our sin, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Release us from sin's burden and guilt that we may know the peace of forgiveness and serve You with our whole heart, mind, and strength.**

(silence for meditation and reflection)

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord † be with you.

C Amen.

7. He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

8. He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

God of mercy, You loved us even when we loved You not. We give You thanks that Your mercy rescued Peter from his fall and Paul from his unbelief, turning them from enemies to Your friends by Your gracious intervention. Rescue us from the perils of our sins and from our rebellious pride by friendship in Christ, that forgiven of our sins, we may serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 9:1–22

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and 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. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

⁸Saul 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. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹And 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, ¹²and 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." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."

¹⁵But 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. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So 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." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹And 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?" ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Revelation 5:1–14

¹Then 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. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And 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." ⁶And 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. ⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸And 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. ⁹And 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,

¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

¹¹Then 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, ¹²saying 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!" ¹³And 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 who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

John 21:1–19

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He 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. ⁷That 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. ⁸The 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.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So 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.

¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

This I Believe

1. Our Father everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Savior

***CHORUS: I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus***

2. Our judge and our defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high **CHORUS**

BRIDGE (2x): I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again

For I believe in the Name of Jesus **CHORUS**

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Sermon – “Mercy Meets Malice and Enmity turns into Amity” (*Saul’s Conversion*)

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs...
Blessed Lord, You forgave Peter his betrayal and appointed him to feed Your sheep. Forgive our sins,
restore us to Your service, and bless all that we do that it may be to Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – You turned Saul from an enemy of Your kingdom into Your servant and sent him as an apostle
to the Gentiles. Turn our hearts from rebellion and resistance to Your Word and Spirit, and lead us to
be bold witnesses of Your mercy in words and in deeds. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

MEN – You set apart pastors to feed Your sheep with the food of Your Word and Supper. Bless the
President of our Synod, our District President, our pastors, and all church workers that their service
may be fruitful and faithful. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – You set apart nations and governments for the protection of people, for justice, and for the
promotion of virtue. Raise up good and honest leaders here and everywhere, and guide them on the
path of peace for the benefit of all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

MEN – You deliver the sick from their illness, the wounded from their pain, the grieving from their sorrow,
and the dying from their fear. Bless all people according to their need with grace sufficient to carry
them through their day of trouble, and sustain them in faith, according to Your gracious will. Lord, in
Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – You bestow upon us the resources we need for this body and life, and You equip us with eternal life that in our baptismal vocation, we may live for more than the moment and use the resources entrusted to us for Your eternal purpose. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

MEN – You have granted us faith by Your Holy Spirit that we may hear Your voice in Your Word and believe it, follow where You have led the way, and be nourished and sustained for this life to eternal life, continue to shape our lives in accord with His gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who taught us to pray:

C **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 Offering DURING THE OFFERING: Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a Worship Card so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Revelation Song

1. Worthy is the, Lamb who was slain
Holy, Holy is He;
Sing a new song to Him who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat. **2x**

**CHORUS: Holy, Holy, Holy
is the Lord God Almighty**

Who was, and is, and is to come

With all creation I sing

praise to the King of Kings

You are my everything and I will adore You.

2. Clothed in rainbows of living color,
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor,
strength and glory and power be
to You the only wise King. **CHORUS**

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder,
At the mention of your name;

Jesus your name is power, breath and living water
Such a marvelous mystery Yeah... **CHORUS**

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

P 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.

C Amen.

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