



Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Worship  
April 27, 2025 9:30am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER  
HIS SANCTURARY, PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ  
THROUGH THIS WORSHIP FOLDER  
TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**



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

**Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170  
734.453.5252 [www.risenchrist.info](http://www.risenchrist.info)**

**ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION** – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe that the Lord's Supper is not symbolic. We believe what Jesus Himself said: that His body and blood are truly present in this, His meal that He instituted 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 and you are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and you have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to the Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the "individual" and "common" cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice 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 through your here! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info)

**A WORD TO OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS** – Welcome and thank you for coming. Everyone please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. For Guests, Pastor will send you a welcome card and 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 T 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!**

*Psalm 145:4–7, 9; antiphon: Psalm 145:10*

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)*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Part 2. Copyright © 2015 Concordia Publishing House.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

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 T 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 T 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 (*Today's sermon text*)

*Acts 9:1–22*

<sup>1</sup>But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup>And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of

my name.” <sup>17</sup>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.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup>and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” <sup>21</sup>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?” <sup>22</sup>But 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*

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

<sup>10</sup>and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

<sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>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!” <sup>13</sup>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 who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” <sup>14</sup>And 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.**

## 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***

## **Holy Gospel**

*John 21:1-19*

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

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

<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.

<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 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.

<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." <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."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

### 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***

CCLI Song # 7018338 Ben Fielding/Matt Crocker  
© 2014 Hillsong Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)  
CCLI License # 140952

**Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info)** – 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.

### “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

1. What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer  
O what peace we often forfeit  
O what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer

2. Have we trials and temptations  
Is there trouble anywhere  
We should never be discouraged  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share  
Jesus knows our every weakness  
Take it to the Lord in prayer

3. Are we weak and heavy laden  
Cumbered with a load of care  
Precious Savior still our refuge  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Do thy friends despise forsake thee  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee  
Thou wilt find a solace there

### 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 +----- 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.**

## Friend Of God

Who am I that You are mindful of me  
That You hear me when I call  
Is it true that You are thinking of me  
How You love me it's amazing  
(It's amazing it's amazing)

**CHORUS: I am a friend of God  
I am a friend of God  
I am a friend of God  
He calls (You call) me friend  
(REPEAT)**

**BRIDGE: God Almighty Lord of Glory  
You have called me friend**

Israel Houghton, Michael Gungor  
CCLI Song #3991651

© 2003 Integrity Worship Music; Integrity's Praise! Music; Sound Of The New Breed  
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com  
CCLI License #140952



**Benediction**