



## ***Hope Lutheran Church***

***May 4, 2025 - Easter 3***

*Setting 2 (pages 116-137)*

*We express our appreciation for being able to meet on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw People. May we always look for ways to confront past injustices and support Snuneymuxw governance and jurisdiction.*

### **Welcome & Announcements**

#### **Thanksgiving at the Font**

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **Gathering Hymn #823 Praise The Lord! O Heavens**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

#### **Glory to God in the highest** *(page 121-2)*

##### ***Refrain***

***Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.***

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *(Refrain)***

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayers. *(Refrain)***

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *(Refrain)***

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and in-

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spire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Children's Corner**

#### **First Reading – 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."

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

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### **Second Reading – 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.

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation (page 124)**

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia***

### **Gospel – John 21:1-19**

*The Gospel according to John*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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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.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: John 21:1-19** (*Rev. Marvin Svingen*)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

We are creatures of habit. There is an old story to illustrate this which I may have told some of you earlier. A man, who flew his own plane, got tired of the long auto trip from the airport to his country place that was situated on a lovely lake. So, he had the idea of equipping his plane with pontoons, so he could land right in front of his cottage.

However, on his first trip to the country with his newly equipped plane, he headed for a landing at the airport as he always had done in the past. Old habits are hard to break. But as he was going in for a landing, it dawned on his wife what was happening and she hollered, “What do you think you’re doing? You can’t land this thing on the runway. You don’t have any wheels; you go pontoons on it!”

Fortunately, her warning shout was in time and he pulled up from his landing pattern and swung the airplane around and headed the plane for a landing on the lake.

After the plane landed safely on the lake, he heaved a really big sigh of relief and turned to his wife and said, “That’s about the stupidest thing I’ve ever done!” Then he turned, opened the door, stepped out, and fell directly into the lake.

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We certainly are creatures of habit. So much of what we do, we do without really thinking about it and there is some comfort in that.

In our text for today, we see that the disciples are also creatures of habit. So much has happened to them. They have seen their beloved Jesus die on the cross after they abandoned him. Then there was the empty tomb. Finally, Jesus appeared to them while they were in the locked room. He is alive! He has risen from the dead! He is greater than they had thought and Jesus has let them know by his words and actions that he has forgiven them for abandoning him.

Now what are they to do? Without Jesus' presence to guide them, they feel lost. So as creatures of habit, they head back to Galilee where their homes are. So much of their life was spent fishing on the Lake of Galilee or as our text calls this medium size lake, "The Seat of Tiberius."

As seven of the disciples are gathered by the lake, Peter says, "I am going fishing. Even those disciples who didn't make their living by fishing feel that it is a good idea. Their minds are confused by all that has happened, so it is good to do something with their bodies.

The others respond, "We will go with you." The best fishing time on the Lake of Galilee is at night. So, the disciples spend the whole night fishing. It feels good to be doing something familiar. It would even felt better if they could have caught some fish.

By early morning they see someone standing on shore. He yells to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?"

They respond, "No."

He says, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat and you will find some."

Maybe from where he is, he can see a school of fish. So, they do it.

When they do, something amazing happens. They catch so much fish that they are unable to haul it on board. It is a miracle. John, who is described not by name but as the one whom Jesus loved, realizes that only Jesus could do this. He looks carefully at the stranger on the shore and then turns to Peter, "it is the Lord."

When Peter hears that it is the risen Lord, he quickly tucks in his fishermen's smock and jumps in the lake and heads to Jesus. He is so excited to see his Lord. The others head the boat to shore dragging the net full of fish behind it.

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As they arrive on shore, they see that Jesus has a charcoal fire going with some fish on it. There is also some bread. Maybe Jesus wants more fish for he says, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.”

So, Peter impulsive as always jumps on board the boat, unties the net, and drags it to shore. It is full of large fish. They count it. There are one hundred and fifty-three fish. It is a perfect catch—one third goes to those who fished, one third goes to the owner of the net, and one third goes to the owner of the boat. The number 153 most likely had special meaning to the first listeners of this Gospel and we are not sure what that was. By the way, People in Jesus’ day would always read out loud even if they are by themselves. Words were meant to be heard not just seen.

Jesus says, “Come and have breakfast.” I like that. Jesus invites his disciples to breakfast. The risen Lord, the ruler of all that there is, fixes breakfast for his disciples after they had completed a hard night’s work.

The disciples sit down with the risen Lord for a small quiet breakfast besides the Lake of Galilee. Jesus, as the host, breaks the bread and hands it to the disciples and he does the same with the fish.

The disciples realize that Jesus is commissioning them to be fishers of people, to be missionaries for the risen Lord. He comes to them not at worship but while they are at work. Now they will work for Jesus. That is their new job.

The risen Lord comes to us today while we are at worship. When we participate in the Eucharist, the risen Lord is the host who gives his body and his blood for our salvation in the bread and wine. But the risen Lord also comes to us at our homes, while we are at work, while we are out shopping, while we are sharing a meal with our family. The risen Lord comes to us where we are. He invites us to receive his gifts of love, wholeness and acceptance. Then he quietly urges us to be his missionaries to share the good news of his resurrection with all those we meet.

But what can we as ordinary people do? The disciples were ordinary people just like us and look at what they did. There is an old legend that you may already know. The legend recounts the return of Jesus to glory after his time on earth. Even in heaven he bore the marks of his earthly pilgrimage with its cruel cross and shameful death. The angel Gabriel approached him and said, “Master, you must have suffered terribly for humans down there.”

He replied that he did.

Gabriel continued: “And do they know and appreciate how much you loved them and what you did for them?”

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Jesus replied, “Oh, no! Not yet. Right now, only a handful of people in Palestine know.”

But Gabriel was perplexed. He asked, “then what have you done to let everyone know about your love of them?”

Jesus said, “I’ve asked Peter, James, John, and a few more friends to tell others about me. Those who are told will tell others, in turn, about me. And my story will be spread to the farthest reaches of the globe. Ultimately, all of humankind will have heard about my life and what I have done.

Gabriel frowned and looked rather skeptical. He well knew what poor stuff humans were made of. He said, “Yes, but what if Peter and James and John grow weary? What if the people who come after them forget? What if way down in the twenty-first century people just don’t tell others about you. Have you made any other plans?”

Jesus answered, “I haven’t made any other plans. I’m counting on them.

Everything dies. We are the product of a dead star. It takes a super nova, that is it takes a giant star that collapses and then explodes to produce carbon and other minerals that make up our bodies and all the solid matter in our solar system. God has used the results of a dead star to create us. But it reminds us that everything dies including stars.

Last April 24, the sad remembrance of Yom Ha’Shoah—Hitler’s attempt to exterminate the entire Jewish people—was held. Currently, there is the terrible suffering and death in Gaza and the war in the Ukraine.

Sometime it seems that death is the ultimate victor in the universe. However, because of Easter all that has changed. Jesus has defeated death. We will live but not as we are now but with better, non-dying bodies. The entire universe will be changed and no longer die because of Easter. Life, not death, is the final victor. Life not death has triumphed.

Jesus’ victory is so amazing but he revealed it in such a quiet and unassuming way on the shore of Galilee over a friendly breakfast among friends.

Today’s text also tells the story of Jesus and Peter. For Jesus turns to Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

“Feed my lambs.”

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“Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

“Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

“Tend my sheep.”

“Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

We are told that Peter was deeply hurt that Jesus asked him a third time.

“Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

“Feed my sheep.”

The risen Lord wants Peter to know, to really know that he is forgiven for denying Jesus three times.

We know that like Peter, we are also fallible creatures. We know that we often fail to do what is right. How can we be entrusted with the enormous task of passing on to others through our words and our deeds, the good news that God has accepted us as we are, with all our faults. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus we are completely accepted by God as we are and not as we should be.

There are times when we are unable to accept that fact that God has truly accepted as we are.

A young convert approached a pastor with a question. ‘How can the hold God forgive a sinner? Isn’t Go repulsed with all the hatred and jealousy that fills people?’

The pastor looked warmly at his young, enthusiastic friend and said, ‘You are the third generation in a family of master furniture makers. Tell me, if a fine table that you grandfather made was scratched would you thrown it away?’

“Of course not,” the young man exclaimed. “A scratch can hardly alter the character of a fine piece of furniture.”

“And”, the pastor continued, “if you nicked a well-crafted oak rocker would you toss it away?”

“Throw it away?” the young man exclaimed. “Even with a few scratched quality furniture is sturdy and valuable.”

“You have spoken like a true craftsman,” the pastor replied. “You share the spirit with our creator God who continues to find his human creation precious and valuable in spite of their obvious flaws.”



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The death and resurrection of Jesus has restored us to God and has made us complete. We are then given the same task as the disciples in spreading the news of Christ to all those we know in our work place, in our neighbourhood and within our family. Perhaps the best way is simply to invited them to join us in worship.

The risen Lord comes to us today. He gives each of us a very important task to do and that is to let others know of his great act of love. Because of Jesus, we will live, the world will live, all creation will live. Death no longer has the final say. With Jesus gift of life, comes the gift of love, wholeness, completeness and unconditional acceptance. We are to let others know of these amazing gifts that waits for them. Let us do so.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Hymn of the Day: #729 The Church of Christ, in Every Age**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*(A brief silence)*

Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. We also pray for **Bishop Kathy Martin**; *Lutheran Church of the Cross* in Victoria & **Pastor Lyndon Sayers**; and for *prison chaplains and their ministries*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic un-

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certainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care, especially...

*Shauna B; Cynthia C; Judy F; Gary G; Ahmad H & family; Dennis K; Donna K; Don & Vicki; Kari K; Colleen M; Marjorie M; Shirley M; Steven M; Katja R; Collette S; Doug S; Pastor Kristen Steele; Dave S; Gordie T; Colin F; June V-C; Gloria; Susana; Annie; Trisha; Zack; Sonja; Doug C & family; Vi A; Cody E; Deborah V & Theresa; Tanis; Lorne S; Karen & Barry; Sean & family; family of Marlene; family of Gary; family of Colin.*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You brought Pastor Terry as pastor at Hope for fifteen years. As he soon retires with our blessing, we pray for our Call Committee as they reflect carefully on potential pastors for Hope, and prayerfully consider who will be a good match for our congregation. We seek the guidance and support of the Holy Spirit as the Call Committee does this important work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

### **The Peace** [*unmute*]

*The peace of Christ is with you always!*

**And also with you!**

*(We greet each other gently with a wave, a smile,  
or some other gesture of peace)*

### **The Offering & Offertory**

"At Calvary" with "Down at The Cross"

*("Mercy there was great and grace was free, pardon there was multiplied fo me,  
There my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary.")*

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*("Down at the cross where my saviour died...There to my heart was the blood applied, Glory to His name.")*

### **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(Pastor continues...)*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;  
who in dying has destroyed death,  
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy** *(page 130)*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in  
the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
*Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.*  
*Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

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and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
Amen.

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Communion** *(those on Zoom will be communed first, then those in the sanctuary)*  
All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

### **Lamb of God** *(Hymnal, Setting 2, page 135)*

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.***

### **Communion Hymns:**

**Hymn #661 I Love To Tell The Story**

**Hymn #434 Jesus Shall Reign**

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## **Blessing:**

The triune God, who was, and is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, +Savior, and Spirit,  
light your way with resurrection dawn,  
now and always. **Amen.**

## **Sending Song #825 You Servants Of God**

*Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

+



## Worship Assistants Today

Presiding: *Pastor Marvin Svingen*

Hymnologist: *John Collett (musician selecting hymns):*

Reader: *Al Pope*

Intercessions: *Lisbeth Scott*

Communion Assistants: *Marilyn, Flo, Carolyn, Laurie*

Zoom Techs: *Gerry, Gail*

Zoom Host: *Dorothy Pagan*

Ushers: *Frieda*

Piano: *John Collett*

*Readings for next Sunday, May 11 - Easter 4*  
*Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30*