

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

God of Easter miracles, open our hearts to hear once again the story of love overcoming death, of joy drowning out sorrow, of hope emerging from despair. Bring Easter to this moment. Touch us. Fill us. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- Easter is not something to be argued, reasoned out, demonstrated. It is something to be experienced, enjoyed, wondered at.
 Anonymous
- The soul should always stand ajar, ready to welcome the ecstatic experience.
 Emily Dickinson (Author and Poet)
- The truth is that we don't want to be saved in the way God has chosen; we want to keep absolute control over our every step, to be fully conscious of our decisions, to be capable of choosing the object of our devotion. It isn't like that with love it arrives, moves in, and starts directing everything."
 Paulo Coelho de Souza (Brazilian lyricist, novelist, and member of the Brazilian Academy of Letters)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The risen Lord suddenly appears among us.

People: It scares us to suddenly be in his presence.

Leader: It is right and good to fear the coming of the Lord.

People: Should we fear because God is angry?

Leader: No. You should fear because Jesus is love. You should fear because the Risen Lord wants us to grow and change.

People: It's scary to change, but we can, by the power of our Lord.

PRAISE SONG: Borning Cry (music at end of bulletin)

OUR CONFESSION:

Interrupt us, O God, disturb our set patterns and rigid responses. Shake us loose from the thinking that we know the only way. Free us from opinions that are held in tight grips, from holier-than-thou attitudes.

Teach us the art of looking at the world new and fresh, ready to be surprised by joy, astonished by grace, overcome with gratitude. Keep us reasonably humble so we may see the new thing that you are doing through other people around us. Open us to your word, your touch, your Spirit. Help us see you at work, even in the interruptions of life. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: Great is Thy Faithfulness (music at end of bulletin)

THE READING:

Acts 9:1-6

This is the story of the early persecutor of Christians, Paul, and his conversion while en route to Damascus. After this event Paul eventually became the greatest missionary for Jesus the world has known.

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 GOSPEL:

John 21:1-14

Here is another post-resurrection of Jesus to His disciples, which immediately follows the one of last week. This one takes place not in a room but by the water where the disciples had become unsuccessful fishermen. At the instruction of Jesus, whom they did not recognize then, they cast their nets as He instructed and ended up with an overwhelming catch of fish.

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 lake. 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 and fiftythree of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

MESSAGE: "No One Expects..."

Pastor David Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: Everything is Grace (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS

THE 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 and 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.

THE SENDING OUT:

- Leader: Whenever we miss the power of your persistent, recycling fountain of grace, O God, shake us up, wake us up, change us. Let us be your people, both now and ever more.
- ALL: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: Travelers on the Journey (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**



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