

# Holy Eucharist

May 1, 2022

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6cV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

## Easter 3C

### Prelude

### Opening Hymn

Hymnal 460

*Alleluia, sing to Jesus*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the  
\*2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we  
3 Al - le - lu - ia! bread of Hea - ven, Thou on

1 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the  
2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is  
3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! here the

1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the  
2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how: though the  
3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -

1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a  
 2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty  
 3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,

1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery  
 2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his  
 3 plead for me, where the songs of all the

1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.  
 2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?  
 3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The Presider begins*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# Glory to God

Canticle 20 ♩ = 130

Setting: Doug Howell

*Gloria in excelsis*

8 Glo-ry to God in the high - estand

14 peace to God's peo - ple, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heavenly

19 King, Al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we

25 praise you for your glo - ry. Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

31 Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God. You take a - way all the sin of the

36 world. Have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

43 Fa - ther. Re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the

48 Ho - ly One. You a - lone are the Lord. You a - lone are the Most High

57 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the



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## Collect of the Day

*Presider* God be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

## First Reading

Acts 9:1-20

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>1</sup>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 who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup>He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But get up 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 because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup>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, <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 in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup>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; <sup>16</sup>I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>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.”<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,<sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,<sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 30**

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, O LORD,  
because you have lifted me up \*  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD my God, I cried out to you, \***  
**and you restored me to health.**

<sup>3</sup>You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; \*  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

<sup>4</sup>**Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; \***  
**give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.**

<sup>5</sup>For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, \*  
his favor for a lifetime.

<sup>6</sup>**Weeping may spend the night, \***  
**but joy comes in the morning.**

<sup>7</sup>While I felt secure, I said,  
“I shall never be disturbed. \*

You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains.”

<sup>8</sup>**Then you hid your face, \***  
**and I was filled with fear.**

<sup>9</sup>I cried to you, O LORD; \*  
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

<sup>10</sup>**“What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? \***  
**will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?**

<sup>11</sup>Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; \*  
O LORD, be my helper.”

<sup>12</sup>**You have turned my wailing into dancing; \***  
**you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; \*  
**O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.**

## **Second Reading**

Revelation 5:11-14

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

<sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>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!”

<sup>13</sup>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!”

<sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

*Reader*            Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand as they are able.*

**Sequence Hymn**

**LEVAS 115**

*Spirit of the living God*

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is written in a soprano clef (treble clef) and the piano accompaniment is in a bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me,". The first system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The second system is identical to the first.



Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.



Spir - it of the Liv - ing God, Fall fresh on me.

## Holy Gospel

John 21:1-19

*Gospeller*  
*People*

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Christ.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>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. <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 after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish 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, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though 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 to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared 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.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup>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.” <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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.” <sup>19</sup>(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”



*Gospeller*      The Gospel of the Holy One.  
*People*            **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*All stand as they are able.*

## **Nicene Creed**

*Presider*    Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**



**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*All remain standing as they are able.*

## **Prayers of the People**

*Presider* Sisters and brothers, give thanks to the One who clothes us with joy. The Lord is our helper and restorer; therefore, let us pray, "Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon us."

*Intercessor* O God, you have chosen your Church to bring your name before all nations: give us hearts to feed your lambs and tend your sheep. Bless our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig. Bless all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our brothers and sisters worshipping at Church of the Messiah, Detroit, St Michael's, Lansing, and St Thomas', Trenton; those in The Episcopal Church in the Philippines, and for all the members of Christ's body. Refresh all Christians in their vocations. Give us hearts to follow Jesus. Hear, O Lord, **and have mercy upon us.**

*Silence is kept.*

Lord Christ, we look for the day when all will live together in peace, when every voice will together sing this hymn: to the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever! Hear, O Lord, **and have mercy upon us.**

*Silence is kept.*

Creator of the deep, protect and preserve our lakes, rivers, and oceans, and all creatures who live therein. May we be good stewards of the gift of water. Accept our praise and thanks for this, [for \_\_\_\_\_, and] all the blessings of this life.

Ancient of Days, we pray for the senior members of our community. Bless with patience and confidence those who rely on others for support, care, and transportation. Bless their caretakers with strength. O Lord our God, restore to health of body, mind, or spirit those who cry out to you [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. Restore the broken to wholeness. Lift up the lowly. Turn wailing into joyful dancing.

Living God, you restore the life of those in the grave: may we, and all the dead, experience resurrection and life everlasting. We pray for those who have died [especially for \_\_\_\_\_]. Preserve us, with St Barnabas, Philip, James, Monica, and all your saints, forever. Hear, O Lord, **and have mercy upon us.**

*Silence is kept.*

*Presider* O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Presider says to the people*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

*A Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, † forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **Prayers for those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries**

*In May, we celebrate the birthdays of Jerry, Nancy Julie, and any others you wish to remember in prayer. Those who will be celebrating their birthday or anniversary in May are invited to the front of the nave.*

### *Prayer for a Birthday*

O God, our times are in your hand: **Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Jerry, Nancy, Julie..., as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### *Prayer for an Anniversary*

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon all couples. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may continue to grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

*Presider*            The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*             **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **Announcements**

## **Holy Communion**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

***The People then are seated.***

*The people stand as they are able when the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

## **Offertory Hymn**

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*The people remain standing as they are able.*

## **Great Thanksgiving**

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Holy One.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Worthy are you. Lord God, and worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive wisdom and might and glory and honor forever and ever.

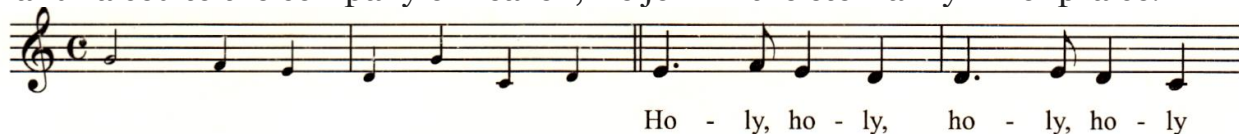
From the pit of slavery you heard your people's cries  
and drew them up to freedom in your service.

Out of the snare of sin, you saw the suffering of your creation  
and restored the life of your faithful ones.

From the grave of death you raised your Son to life on the third day.

In him, you turn mourning into dancing;  
you remove the sackcloth of tears, and clothe us with joy.

And so around your throne, with all you have gathered to yourself  
and raised to the company of heaven, we join in the eternal hymn of praise.



9  
 God of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and earth are  
 12  
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! All  
 15  
 hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -  
 18  
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!  
 24 *molto rit.*  
 Bles-sed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

*The Presider continues*

Providing God, your Son prepared a simple meal for his disciples  
 which, in your grace, became a resurrection banquet.

As you revealed yourself to them, open our hearts  
 to receive in this holy meal the miracle of his saving passion.

Send your Holy Spirit † upon your church to make our life together a feast  
 for all who hunger.

Sanctify this bread and cup, that they may be for us  
 the body and blood of your Son;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread,  
 gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,  
 "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
 do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
 "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,  
 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

Great Shepherd, your Son is the holy Lamb,  
and by his blood you have made us your own flock.

Feed your sheep who hunger for the necessities of life, for safe food to eat  
and clean water to drink, for protection from fear, for shelter, and for warmth.

Tend your lambs when they long for love and acceptance and a place to belong.  
Make your church a sheepfold of grace.

Shepherd all who have suffered harm and look to you for healing and hope.

Turn the sorrow of mourning into one eternal joy in your presence. Bring us  
with all creation to that great day when we shall fall on our knees  
and worship the Lamb in glory, Holy Father, in the power of your Spirit. **AMEN.**

*The Presider then continues*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The Presider says*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

You call us, Lord Jesus, to share the feast  
which you first shared with the disciples  
on the night before your death upon the cross.

**The same life you shared with them is shared with us.**

The same love you poured forth on the cross is poured forth in this feast;  
this is the feast which your saints share for ever.

**We also are called to this feast of our forgiveness, redemption,  
health, and joy; let us come then to this table  
and share this feast; and as we come to you, Lord Jesus,  
come now and always to us. Amen.**

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*The following is sung after all have received, and the table is being cleared.*

**Post-Communion Hymn**

**LEVAS 41**

Christ has a - ris - en, Al - le - lu - ia. Re - joice and  
praise Him, Al - le - lu - ia. For our Re - deem - er burst from the  
tomb, E - ven from death dis - pel - ling its gloom. Let us sing praise to Him

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Christ has a - ris - en, Al - le - lu - ia. Re - joice and praise Him, Al - le - lu - ia. For our Re - deem - er burst from the tomb, E - ven from death dis - pel - ling its gloom. Let us sing praise to Him".

with end-less joy. Death's fear-ful sting He has come to de - stroy, Our sin for-

giv - ing, Al - le - lu - ia. Je - sus is liv - ing, Al - le - lu - ia.

*After the hymn, the Presider says*

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

*A Priest blesses the people, saying*

The blessing of God Almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**Hymnal 182**



*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!*

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands  
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,  
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the  
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet  
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.  
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.  
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.  
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

**Dismissal**

*Minister* My sisters and my brothers, go forth into this world. Don't be afraid. Don't be ashamed to be people of love. And go forth into this world and help us to change it from the nightmare it often is, into the dream that God intends.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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**As we pray** for an end to violence and for those fleeing Ukraine, please also pray for Episcopal Relief & Development and other ecumenical agencies working to respond to the current crisis. Specific needs will change as the crisis evolves. *As of right now, there is a need for food, water and shelter. Please consider partnering with Episcopal Relief & Development in this response.* Visit [episcopalrelief.org/ukraine-crisis](http://episcopalrelief.org/ukraine-crisis) for more information.

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**Faith in Action** provides leadership in collecting donations of food to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to [Nancy](#) who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive is May 15**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

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**Coffee Hour sign-up sheet** is available in the church hall. Please sign up to bring **simple** food and/or to clean up after. If you have questions, please contact [Kitty](#).

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The **Book Discussion** group had its most recent meeting on April 14, via Zoom. The sessions begin at **6:30**. The next session will be on **May 5**. All are welcome to participate. For more info, contact [Kathy O](#).

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### Upcoming Commemorations

- May 1 Philip and James, Apostles
- 2 Athanasius of Alexandria, Bishop and Theologian, 373
- 3 Elisabeth Cruciger, Poet & Hymnographer, 1535
- 4 Monica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387
- 5 The Martyrs of the Reformation Era, 1535-1679
- 7 Harriet Starr Cannon: Religious, 1896

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### Easter 3C May 1, 2022

#### Acts 9:1-20

Have you ever encountered someone you hadn't seen in a while who has completely changed for the better? Maybe a high school or university

acquaintance, a cousin or other family member? Memories of taunting or even simply discomfort because of the way they previously acted might arise. Yet – they’ve changed! Really changed. They seem sweet and maybe much humbler than you remember. Our memories get confusing because you *know* something happened *that* way, and it probably did! Now, though, you find it hard to dislike them.

Somewhere along the way, they had a Damascus moment. You don’t know what happened, but they seemed to have learned something profound. Perhaps you got an apology out of it. Reconciliation, thanks be to God! Maybe for them, a close death or near death experience, the harrowing of a relationship or health problem that they went through gave them a new perspective. Perhaps you’re that person and you’ve come a long way since that former self. The harshest conversions, though, can be the most difficult to accept for us. But this is between God and the person, isn’t it? Ananias is an example for us today. We might have a few questions about security, for sure, but we put away our pride and follow the Christian example to love and welcome those along our way, no matter their past.

- Where is God amid a difficult relationship?
- Perhaps you remember a time when you weren’t as welcoming and loving as you should have been. What did you learn from this experience and how did you grow?

### **Psalm 30**

“Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning” sounds very much like a modern cliché we might hear, along the lines of “It’s always darkest just before the dawn.” While I don’t know if that’s scientifically accurate, I do know that I find myself refreshed after a nap or full sleep after I’ve cried or had an emotional time with something or someone. I feel this is what the psalmist has also gone through. Yet, through God’s power and might, he lifts us up. He rescues us from fear and from the Pit. He hears our cries and turns them around into shouts of joy, praise, and thanksgiving. Our tears are redeemed.

- How has God redeemed the tears in your life?
- Symbolically speaking and if you can share, what did the night look like? What did the morning look like?

### **Revelations 5:11-14**

Usually, when the title “Lamb of God” comes up, it’s in the context of “Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.” But here we have a much more vivid picture: The Lamb who has been slaughtered, yet who has received much in return. This Lamb is worshipped along with the one seated on the throne.

In a broader context, the four living creatures and the elders were introduced earlier in Chapter 4. Many have speculated those living creatures (lion, ox, eagle, and human) represent the four Gospels. The fact that they declare, “Amen!” certainly adds intrigue to this idea. There are twenty-four elders, which I find interesting; we are so accustomed to the number 12 in scripture, but now we have doubled that. Could the elders represent all humankind? Both Jew *and* Gentile? Man *and* woman? In any event, *all* fell down and worshiped.

- What is your favorite practice in your private and/or public worship?

### **John 21:1-19**

This passage is full of rich details, isn't it? Nathanael is from Cana; maybe he was the groom of the wedding? Peter is naked. The fire is a charcoal fire, not a wood fire. The number of fish is 153. We also know the story takes place early in the morning, which is the best time to catch fish. But none of these details is as important as the answer Jesus seeks: "Do you love me?" "Feed my sheep." "Follow me." (Though we get in one last detail: a prediction of Peter's death.)

- In what ways do you follow Jesus as the unique person you are?
- What's one detail about Jesus' life and ministry that you hold close?

*This Bible study was written by Zachary Baker*

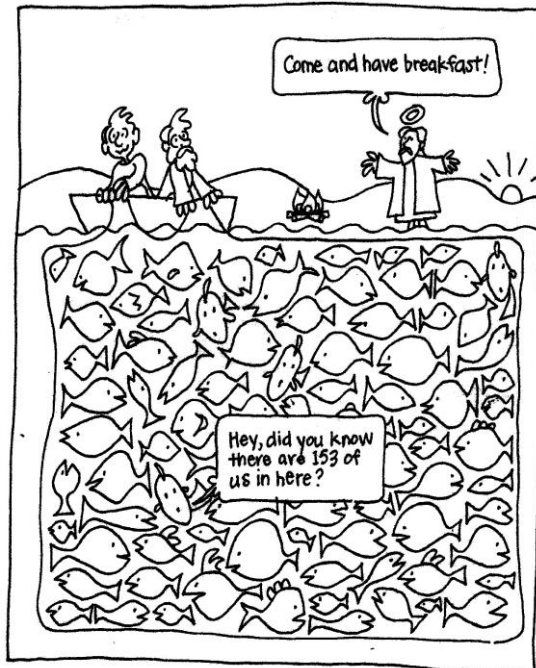
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**Eucharistic Prayer** from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher, *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.164-165  
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We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ,  
 and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of  
 Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



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