



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

#### **Prelude**

*Lead on, O King Eternal*

**Gathering**—One day the Resurrected Christ stood on the shore and made breakfast for his friends. He offered nourishment for their bodies and for their spirits. He poured out his forgiveness and his mercy, and once again said, “Follow me.” In this Easter season of transformation and renewal, we encounter a God who calls us from the tombs of our lives and extends to us the invitation, “Follow me.” May our worship today be our “yes,” our commitment to answer God’s call.

**A Time of Prayer**— God of resurrection, you are with us in our worship, and for that we give you thanks. Your ways are ways of justice. Your ways are ways of peace. Your ways are ways of love. In you, our hearts are full.  
In your ways, we will follow.+

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison)—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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

#### **Choir Anthem**

*God Is There*

#### **We Hear God’s Word**

*John 21:1-19 (NRSV)*

21After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. 2Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 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.

4 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 lake. <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.

9 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 and 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.

15 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.’

**Meditation “From the Tomb”**

*Follow God*

**Hymn**

*God of Grace and God of Glory, #569*

## **We Gather at the Table**

**Set Your Place at the Table**—Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So, gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

**Our Invitation**—Christ invites us, “Follow me.” Christ invites us, “Eat this bread, drink this wine.” All who long to be filled are already invited to Christ’s table.

**The Words of Institution**— On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, we remember...we offer ourselves...we proclaim God’s love...

**Our Confession**— Lover of Creation, forgive us. We have not loved ourselves. We have not loved our neighbors. We have not followed in your ways. We have rebelled against your love. Forgive us. Engage us. Reshape our imaginations. Trade our complacency for your courage, our pettiness for your possibility, our greed for your goodness, our aimlessness and for your adventure, our lives for your love. Amen.+

**Assurance of Grace**— Open your hearts. Hear the good news. God has not abandoned us. God has not sent us out to find our own way. God is with us, all around us, at work within us. In the name of all that is, you are welcome into the grace, mercy, and forgiveness of the Creator of our hearts. Glory to the Giver of Life. Amen.+

**Blessing Our Meal**—God of resurrection hope, pour out your Spirit upon this table and all gathered around it. As you transform this bread and cup into visible signs of your grace, transform our lives, that we might receive your healing and your mercy and experience life renewed. Amen.

**We Share the Bread and the Cup** – As you eat the bread, remember, “This is the body of Christ broken for you.” Take and eat. As you drink the cup, remember, “This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins.” Take and drink.

**We Give Thanks**—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.=

### **We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation**— In a world that lives out of scarcity, God calls us to a life of abundance God offers grace and mercy. God heals us. God carries us. In God, we live. In God, we move. In God, we are made whole. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God.+

**May Benevolence**—Global Ministries

**Celebrating Generosity: Stories About Why We Give**

*Barb Huffman*

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at [www.zionuccindy.net/donate](http://www.zionuccindy.net/donate)

### **Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**— May these gifts be used to bring life and love and liberation for this world that God so dearly loves. Amen.+

### **Hymn**

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, #344*

**Benediction**— Now, may the grace of God go with us. May God’s face shine upon us. May we love the world as God has loved us. May we be peace. May we be love. May God’s mercy be present among us. Amen.+

### **Postlude**

*I Will Follow Him*