

First Reading: Acts 3:11–21

¹¹While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

Epistle: 1 John 3:1–7

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we

shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

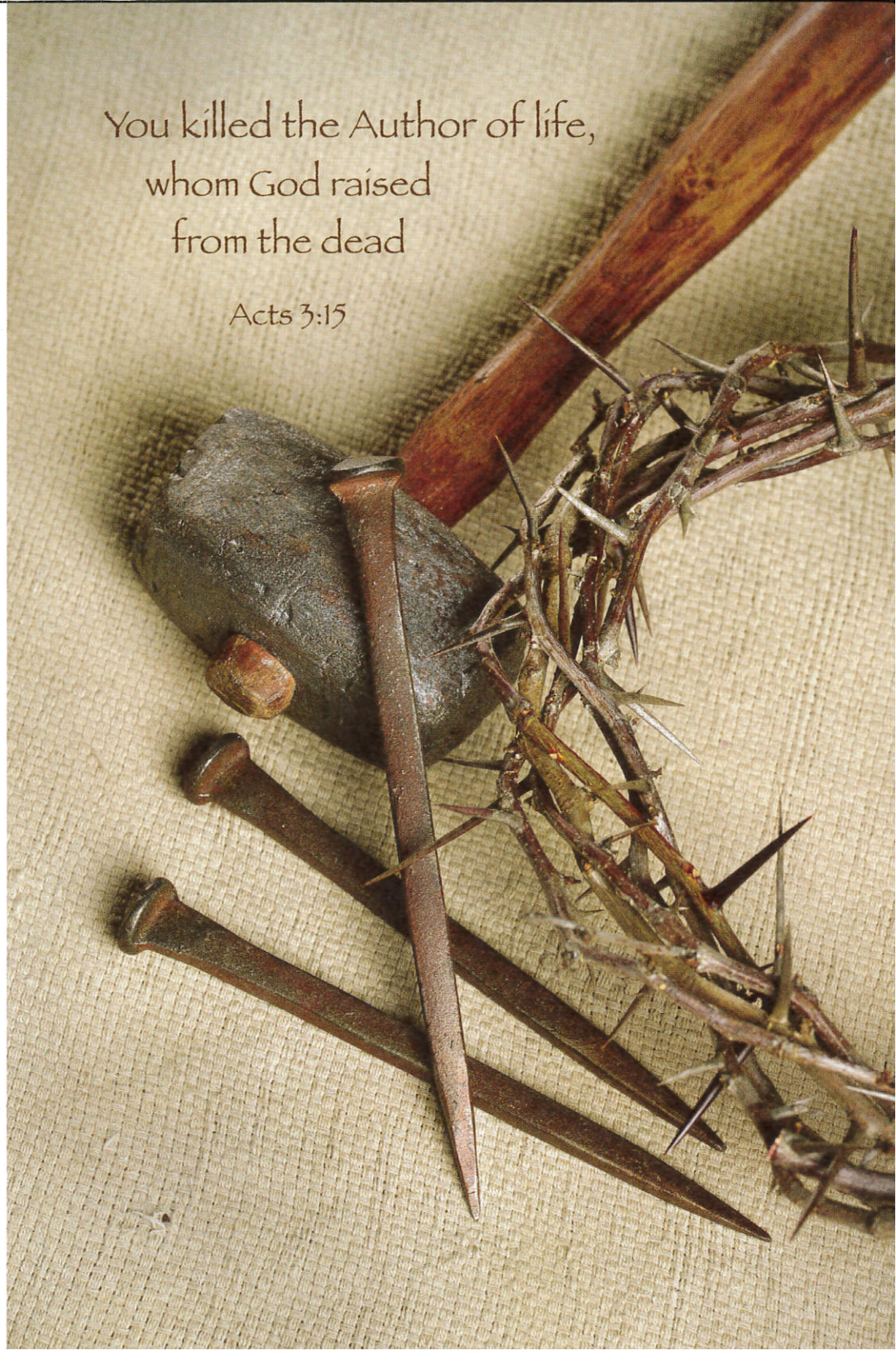
Holy Gospel: Luke 24:36–49

³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

You killed the Author of life,
whom God raised
from the dead

Acts 3:15



Easter

About the Cover: The world tried to write an end to the Author of life with the implements of death. But a hammer, nails, and a crown of thorns have been used by God in His greater plan to bring us salvation. Christ has been raised from the dead to never die again (see Romans 6:9). Death cannot be the end of the Author of life. Because we are in Him, our end is only life.

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254
309-949-2516

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

Service of Prayer and Preaching (Lutheran Service Book, p. 260)

Hymn of Invocation 480 He's Risen, He's Risen

Opening Versicles (Common, p. 260)

Psalm 4 *(in place of Old Testament Canticle)*

- ¹Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
- ²**O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?**
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?
- ³But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.
- ⁴**Be angry, and do not sin;**
ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.
- ⁵Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.
- ⁶**There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?"**
Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!"
- ⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.
- ⁸In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.
- 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.

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Responsory (Common, p. 263)

Catechism (p. 264)

Ten Commandments

The Apostles' Creed

Lord's Prayer

Christian Questions with Their Answers, 7-12 (see insert)

Sermon

Office Hymn 467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

Presentation of the Offering

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

The prayer concludes:

- P** ... through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Collect of the Day (p. 265)

- P** O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up
the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from
the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal
joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Collect for the Word

Morning Prayer (p. 266)

Blessing (p. 267)

Hymn to Depart 483 With High Delight Let Us Unite

Silent Prayer

Luther's Small Catechism

Section 4

Christian Questions with Their Answers

Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go
to the Sacrament*

After confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the pastor may ask, or Christians may ask themselves these questions:

7. *Who is Christ?*

The Son of God, true God and true man.

8. *How many Gods are there?*

Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

9. *What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?*

He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

10. *Did the Father also die for you?*

He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.

11. *How do you know this?*

From the holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

(over)

12. *What are the words of institution?*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

* The "Christian Questions with their Answers," designating Luther as the author, first appeared in an edition of the Small Catechism in 1551.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
<https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo>

**HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

Rev. Timothy Nerud Pastor
309-949-2516 (Office), 612-940-8138 (Cell), 309-949-2517 (Home)

Elder: Aaron Raschke

Greeter: Janet Bertso

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

WE PRAY: Lord Jesus Christ, Champion and Advocate of sinners at the tribunal of the Father, in spite of our disparity draw us ever deeper into the fellowship of light and love, that we may the more appreciate Your gracious presence among us and all that You do to make your peace work in our midst; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

IF YOU DESIRE, a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)
(Tuesday— Friday) please call ahead

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES - use this website (www.lhm.org) to have daily devotions sent to your email or phone. You never have to be without God's word.

All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—11 Adult Bible Class—12 Worship—45

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday \$3,665.00
Weekly giving needed per 2024 Budget \$4,481.54

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

| | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Today | 8:45 am | SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study |
| | 10:00 am | Divine Worship |
| Tuesday | 1:00 pm | LWML |
| Wednesday | 5:00 pm | Confirmation |
| Thursday | 6:30 pm | Elders' Review |
| Next Sunday | 8:45 am | SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study |
| | 10:00 am | Divine Worship/Holy Communion |
| | 11:30 am | Youth |

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Psalms 122:1*

JOHN 10:14 – "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him, and in knowing Him, we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord's grace.

ALTAR FLOWERS today, are given by Randy & Karen Rasmussen and those given last week by Mike and Jan Dahl. God has blessed both couples with many years together as husband and wife. May those years increase as they serve the Lord.

ATTENDANCE BOOK—We ask everyone attending this morning to sign the red attendance book found at the end of each pew, then pass it back.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS is a FREE monthly Lutheran magazine with different topics related to our beliefs. If you would like to start receiving a copy, there's a sign-up sheet by the coat room. April 14th is the last day to sign up.

SPECIAL INGATHERING—Our LWML is asking for you help in collecting items for Pregnancy Resources. You are invited to bring the listed items anytime from April 7 – April 26. Items needed include:

Diapers (Newborn and size 5-6), Newborn clothing (boy and girl), Diaper wipes, Toddler clothing (2T & 3T boy and girl), New baby bottles, Burp cloths, New pacifiers, Receiving blankets, Baby shampoo & lotion (no powder or oil), Small baby toys (teethers, etc.), Baby bath towels, Baby washcloth, Monetary checks made to "Pregnancy Resources"

CHRISTIAN LIVING—**Luke 24:36-49:** Jesus gives a mission statement to all His followers: "Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in

His name to all nations.” Thanks be to God, we are not left on our own in this great task. Luke tells us that we have been clothed with power from on high. The Holy Spirit guides and directs our witness and He takes our message of repentance and forgiveness and brings about faith in those who hear.

LIFE THOUGHTS—The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11-16). Herein lies our assurance that our Shepherd does not abandon His sheep. He loves them too much. He paid too much for them to forsake them. We live our lives, not in the absence of suffering, but in the presence of the Good Shepherd. *Good Shepherd, thank You for laying down Your life for me. Amen.*

DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS: DFM is funding new prison ministries in central Illinois. If a congregation lends its pastor to prison ministry one day a week, Central Illinois District is in a position to thank that church with \$5,000 per year. In 2023 it received DFM funds for starts of new ministries in as many as four prisons or county jails. Now in 2024 the project is to gather sufficient money to continue such new work into 2025. The current target is \$10,000. See the video at <https://youtu.be/BcyFWxbA-ww>

QUESTION OF THE WEEK-# 16 - Is believing in Christ is the best way to attain eternal life? To hear an answer to this question, go to <https://www.cidlcms.org/myth-or-faith/4.1.mp3>

ALTAR FLOWERS—The 2023 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms. Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. **Please sign up for a Sunday.**

PRAYER MINISTRY

Remember how God works to strengthen the faith of His people as you pray:
MISSION—Pray for the Synod’s directors of Family Life Ministry, that God would bless their efforts to support healthy relationships in the families of our congregations.

ST JOHN’S—Mr. & Mrs. Richard Anderson—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Brent, Laura, and Dane asking Your blessings upon them.

ST. JOHN’S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elizabeth Bjork | Paula Chapa | Joyce DeFauw |
| Betty Firch | Arlyn Helke | Larry Hock |
| Jessica Johnson | Lynne Johnson | Linda Lundquist |
| Aaron Raschke | Drew Schillinger | Carolyn Wildermuth |
| Denise Winchell | Marilyn Woods | |

Anthony/Sami Sedotto (2022/2023 Adopted seminary student)
Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)
Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)
Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)
Mike Erdman (nephew of Bob Erdman)
Shandel Loenser
Paul Werner (brother of Dan Werner)
Ron Powell (friend of Brad Gehn)
Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)
Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)
Todd Erbst (former member of St. John’s)
Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)
Don Lutz (husband of an LWML friend of Liz Neumann)
Carol Eggers (friend of Marilyn Woods)
Dale Doxsee (former member of St. John’s)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:
Mandy/Richard Davila (daughter/son-in-law of Linda Aper)
Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)
Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)
Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)
Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)
Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“So, what can we do? We must keep doing what we have always done. We must continue to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We must be sure our own church members, families, friends, and co-workers understand the value that God places on all human life.” *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

Text: Acts 3:11-21 (First Reading)

Other Texts: 1 John 3:1-7 (Epistle); Luke 24:36-49 (Gospel Reading)

“Terrible Sin, Incredible Forgiveness”

“Christ is risen! [He is risen indeed!] Alleluia!” Our text is the First Reading from the book of Acts. Right before today’s text, Peter and John had gone up to the temple at the time of the evening sacrifice, which was a time of prayer as well. Here we see an example of these two apostles doing what St. Paul described in 1st Corinthians, “To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews.”¹ No doubt they used this time of gathering for prayer, but they also utilized it for preaching about Jesus of Nazareth whose crucifixion and resurrection is the once-for-all final sacrifice that fulfills all the others at the temple, making the rest unnecessary, obsolete.

But on this particular day St. Luke records a specific example of the truth that “many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”² As Peter and John went up to the temple they found a man who had been lame from birth, who was regularly brought to the temple area in order to beg for alms. But this day they did not give the man any monetary charity, but instead through Peter a miracle was worked, giving him an instantaneous healing that was so complete that, not only did he not need any physical therapy, he didn’t even need to learn how to use his healed legs, but was immediately able to walk and even leap as the book of Acts records.³

So the first thing our text would teach us is why a miracle? First, it reveals God’s mercy as He alleviates this man’s suffering. Truly, seeing God’s mercy in action like this reminds us to love our neighbor and to carry out acts of charity and to support mercy work in order to show God’s love by helping to alleviate people’s suffering as we are able. The second reason for a miracle is “wow factor” that draws people’s attention, which it did as we hear “all the people ran to them...astounded.”⁴ Yet, we quickly realize that this getting people’s interest is so that they are present to hear the Word of God, a Word that the miracle helps confirm to be true. And so it was that the people who had gathered to see an amazing miracle then had proclaimed to them a far more amazing truth: that God offered the forgiveness of sins to those who had killed Jesus!

Who was this Jesus? He was—or better, is—God Himself, the only-begotten Son of the Father who had become true man to be the Messiah (Christ), their Savior. This is the Jesus who healed people in their body and minds, who cast out demons who tormented them, who even raised the dead. This is the Jesus who did these miracles, yes, because He had mercy on people, but especially to draw people to Him to hear His preaching and teaching, and to confirm it as true. His preaching and teaching that was centered on God’s love and mercy towards sinners, proclaiming forgiveness of sins to all who repent and turn to Him in faith, even “the worst,” such as traitorous, thieving tax collectors, prostitutes, adulteresses, and others. This is the Jesus who did everything right, certainly then doing nothing to deserve death, as even the pagan Gentile Roman governor, Pontius Pilate knew for he wanted to release Him.

Yet we know what happened. The leaders were jealous of Jesus’ popularity with the people, resented His rebukes against their pride and hypocrisy, and so feared to lose their positions of

authority and the benefits that such gave. So they, rather early one, decided Jesus had to go. But what of the people? Again, you know what happened. On Palm Sunday they hailed Him as the King of Israel, the Christ, but then just a few days later, following their leaders, they cried out “Crucify Him!”⁵ They even chose to have Barabbas, a violent criminal who did them no good, released in place of this very Jesus who had done them so much good. So Peter minces no words, “You killed the Author of life.”⁶

Can you imagine a worse sin? Even Adam and Eve’s foolish decision to disobey God in order to become like Him, as obviously wicked as it was, pales in comparison to crucifying the Son of God by whom all things were made, in whom all things hold together!⁷ If all sinners deserve hell, how much more so then these people. So we then hear Peter proclaim God’s curse of eternal condemnation upon them, right? Well, not exactly. “Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.”⁸ No doubt they were as surprised to hear that promise as much as you and I are surprised that they would hear it. Yet that, dear Christians, is the Gospel. The promise to them, to you and me, yes, to all people, that all our sins, even the most horrific ones, are forgiven, for the grace and mercy of God is greater than any sin, for they are blotted out completely by the blood of the crucified and risen Jesus, the incarnate Son of God!

Of course, repentance is necessary. One cannot be forgiven their sins if they do not truly grieve over them and refuse to confess them as the vile rebellion they are. And certainly refusing to turn from sin, but instead continuing in it, proves that any “confession” is a complete sham by which they hypocritically try to hide their total rejection of Christ and the forgiveness of sins His sacrifice won. Such people mock God’s grace and blasphemes Jesus. The one who refuses to repent as expressed by willingly continuing in sin without grief and struggle, will not inherit the kingdom of God. And none of this is downplaying or denying what Peter proclaimed to the people for the same Peter who promised forgiveness to those who killed Jesus also wrote,

For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.⁹

Consider also John, who was with Peter and preached the same glorious Gospel of forgiveness, is the same man that wrote what we heard in today’s Epistle, “No one who abides in [Jesus] keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.”¹⁰ To have faith is to know Jesus as God, Lord, Savior, and Friend. That faith cannot coexist in a heart that does not repent, whether of self-righteousness, the filthiest sin of the flesh, or any other sin.

And that is where Peter’s words are important, when he proclaimed that the people and even their rulers acted in *ignorance*.¹¹ That is, ignorant that Jesus really is God’s Son and the Savior since He wasn’t what they expected or, sadly, wanted. This does not mean that they were not accountable for this sin, as the legal principle states, “Ignorance of the law is no excuse.” Hence why Peter doesn’t say, “You didn’t know so don’t worry about it” but instead says, “Repent.” You only need to repent for that which you are responsible, so clearly their ignorance did not clear them of the sin.

Yet, there is a difference between sinning in ignorance and in knowledge of the evil. This is true even under imperfect human justice, where leniency is more likely shown the one who did not know that they were doing wrong, or at least the fullness of such. It is also true under divine justice, where the degree of eternal punishment varies accordingly. But even more, and the main point here, the ignorant heart is not hardened yet, the conscience can still be pricked, the soul remains more open to the Law's condemnation and threats, and so repentance before judgment is more likely. But when the sin is known and understood, when it is not ignorance, but evil, it is not the same. St. Augustine's warning is very true, "Sinning because of pleasure is more serious than sinning out of necessity."¹² Yes, both are sins for which the sinner is accountable, but the state of the heart is very different in the two cases as is, or at least should be, obvious.

Once the resurrection was proclaimed to the people, the proof of whom Jesus was removed their ignorance. Now they either repented or they continued in sin with knowledge and so hardened their heart. So too you know God's Law. And knowledge of the Law has removed your ignorance of what sin is. To continue in sin, whether it be idolatry, sexual immorality, greed, or a hypocritical heart that self-righteously refuses to forgive another, is to harden your heart and lose Christ, forgiveness, and salvation. So repent. And keep on repenting, for we daily sin much and we must be sure that no sin takes control of our soul, that is, our heart and mind.

But know something more as well. It is true that not every sin is equal. Yes, all condemn, but there are difference as we heard. This is true. But then it might then seem that some sins are too big to forgive, too sick to be blotted out. No doubt you've heard a voice telling you that about a sin or sins you have committed. Truly, all sincere Christians have heard that voice for they are the ones who actually take their sins seriously! But don't let that voice overwhelm you or fill you with despair. For that is the voice of none other than the Father of *Lies*.

Today's text is the assurance that the truth is quite different, that there is no sin too great that the blood of God cannot blot it out. Scripture is full of this truth. God forgave Adam and Eve who rebelled in Paradise, David who committed both murder and adultery, the adulterous woman, Peter who denied Him to save himself, Paul who brutally persecuted Christians, and these people who killed Jesus. This is because Jesus didn't stay dead, but rose on the third day.

And because Jesus is risen, God forgives you too, and brings you times of refreshing, that is, peace with God and all the blessings of His grace, until the Lord Jesus returns from heaven and restores all things. On that Day, our bodies will be raised in glory, all weakness and disease forever removed, of which the healing of the lame man was a hint, a foretaste.

Dear Christians, Jesus is God's answer to sin. His death and resurrection are the blotting out of sin, yours, mine, everyone's. It is received by all who repent and believe, as is eternal life with Him. And that greatest of miracles is one in which we'll all share! Amen!

¹ 1 Corinthians 9:20a. All quotes are from *The Holy Bible English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

² Acts 2:43.

³ Acts 3:6-8.

⁴ Acts 3:11b.

⁵ Mark 15:13. Cf. v. 11 where they followed their leaders urging.

⁶ Acts 3:15.

⁷ Cf. John 1:1-3, 14; Colossians 1:15-17.

⁸ Acts 3:19.

⁹ 2 Peter 2:20.

¹⁰ 1 John 3:6.

¹¹ Acts 3:17.

¹² St. Augustine (354-430 AD) was an extremely gifted and influential bishop and theologian. These words are quoted by the great orthodox Lutheran theologian Johann Gerhard. *Theological Commonplaces XII-XIV On Sin and Free Choice*, ¶ 88

Third Sunday of Easter (B)
14 April 2024

Presentation of the Offering

O risen Savior, grant us hearts to yield You gladly, freely, of Your own; With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive. Amen.

Prayer of the Church—Responsive Form

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, in Your presence we find fullness of joy, and by Your right hand, Christ Jesus, You win and deliver peace forevermore. In the midst of this world's sins and sorrows, give us peace in the knowledge of His salvation and confident hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, by the incarnation of Your Son and the reconciliation of His cross, You have made us Your children and gathered us into Your Holy Church. Sustain the preaching of Your Holy Word and its message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name among us and all the nations of the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give peace, Lord, to our homes and enliven them by Christ's resurrected life. Let the forgiveness of sins reign among husbands and wives, parents and children. Assure those who live alone that they, too, are Your children, upheld by Your right hand. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, preserve our nation and its leaders, especially Joseph, our president, and Jay, our governor. Preserve order and decency in this fallen world by their hands and restrain the sins and deceptions of the lawless, that we may practice righteousness while awaiting the eternal peace promised in Christ's wounds alone. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all comfort, You have compassion on those who are afflicted. Remember and have mercy on Ellen, Elizabeth, Marty, Paula, Joyce, Dale, Carol, Don, Todd, Michael, Betty, Arlyn, Larry, Jessica, Lynne, Gary, Shandel, Linda, Don, Jodi, Ron, Aaron, Justin, Drew, Paul, Carolyn, Marilyn, and all those in need of Your healing and deliverance. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, remember Richard and Trish Anderson. Bless them in body and soul with all things needful for this life and eternity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.