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**Daily Prayer**  
**+ Wednesday, April 22, 2020 +**

## Invocation

L: Christ is risen!

**C: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.**

## Psalmody

*Psalm 99:1-5*

L: The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

**C: He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**

L: The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

**C: Let them praise your great and awesome name! Holy is he!**

L: The King in his might loves justice. You have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

**C: Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!**

**C: Glory be to Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Hymn

**#476, v. 1-2**

[1] Who are you who walk in sorrow  
Down Emmaus' barren road,  
Hearts distraught and hope defeated,  
Bent beneath grief's crushing load?  
Nameless mourners, we will join you,  
We who also mourn our dead;  
We have stood by graves unyielding,  
Eaten death's bare, bitter bread.

[2] Who is this who joins our journey,  
Walking with us stride by stride?  
Unknown Stranger, can You fathom  
Depths of grief for one who died?  
Then the wonder! When we told You  
How our dreams to dust have turned,  
Then You opened wide the Scriptures  
Till our hearts within us burned.

## Reading

## Luke 5:1-16

*On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And*

*when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. And he charged him to tell no one, but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them." But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Devotional Message from Pastor Thompson**

In our reading today from Luke 5, the Lord Jesus calls apostles from among men, who will serve him as preachers of the Word for the evangelization of the world. Peter and James and John are called by Jesus: "*Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.*" (Luke 5:10)

And it is no accident that Jesus calls Peter and James and John in the context of fishing. Fishing is their business and Jesus will use the figure of fishing as a metaphor for the work of the apostles. They will understand his meaning.

The figure of fishing by nets and gathering a catch into a boat will represent what he will accomplish through the preaching of the Word. In this figure, the sea is the world, the fish are people, the net is the preaching of the Gospel, and the boat is the church. As Luther writes, *"For as the net is let down among the waves, so the sermon finds its way among men."* (Luther, *Sermons*, 4, 164)

God is in the business of gathering souls into his kingdom and he accomplishes this work through the Word. As Paul writes, *"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* (Romans 10:17)

The Lutheran Confessions make this exact point: *"To obtain such faith God instituted the office of the ministry, that is, provided the Gospel and the sacraments. Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit, who works faith, when and where he pleases, in those who hear the Gospel."* (Augsburg Confession, V)

Preaching and teaching, sharing our faith with children, comforting the sick and the distressed with words of Scripture, singing the faith through music, publishing the Gospel in books, depicting the works of God through art--these all are like a net which catches men by instilling faith in the heart.

The Word moves through the air and into the ear and into the heart, where faith dwells. And it is in our hearts that we know God through faith.

Our reading, then, invites us to remember how God's Word has caught our own hearts and gathered us into the church. We are the Lord's fish and the church is the Lord's boat. And it inspires us to join in the work of the church, proclaiming Christ, in long sermons or short words of encouragement, gathering other fish into the Lord's boat. Amen.

### **Apostles' Creed**

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**C: 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.**

## **Collect**

L: Lord Jesus Christ, when Peter fell before you in repentance as a sinful man, you absolved him of his sins. By your grace and through the same forgiveness of sins may we also be found worthy to stand in your presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Blessing**

L: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

## **Hymn**

**# 476, v. 3-5**

[3] Who are You? Our hearts are opened  
In the breaking of the bread--  
Christ the victim, now the victor  
Living, risen from the dead!  
Great companion on our journey,  
Still surprise us with Your grace!  
Make each day a new Emmaus;  
On our hearts Your image trace!

[4] Who are we who travel with You  
On our way through life to death?  
Women, men, the young, the aging,  
Wakened by the Spirit's breath!  
At the font You claim and name us,  
Born of water and the Word;  
At the table still You feed us,  
Host us as our risen Lord!

[5] "Alleluia! Alleluia!"  
Is the Easter hymn we sing!  
Take our life, our joy, our worship  
As the gift of love we bring.  
You have formed us all one people  
Called from ev'ry land and race.  
Make the Church Your servant body,  
Sent to share Your healing grace!