

New Hope Lutheran Church

189 Regent St.
Sudbury, Ontario
P3C 4C4

705-673-2933
email: office@nhlc.ca
website: nhlc.ca

face book: New Hope Lutheran Church
you tube: New Hope Lutheran Church Sudbury

Pastors:

Rev. Charles Nolting
phone: 705-920-3573 email: pcn@nhlc.ca

Rev. Johanna Porkola
phone: 705-688-6284 email: pjp@nhlc.ca

May 1, 2022

The 3rd Sunday of Easter

Coming Events

- | | | |
|-------|--------|--|
| May 3 | 1:30 | Finnish Bible Study Impola Room |
| | 7:00 | English Bible Study Zoom |
| May 4 | 10 - 1 | Kahvi Time Regent St |
| May 5 | 6:30 | Finnish Bible Study Zoom |
| May 8 | 10:00 | Finnish Worship † Voima Hall
(Mother's Day coffee) |
| | 2:00 | English Worship † Regent St
(Mother's Day coffee) |

In our prayers Ruth, Marilyn.

Remembering Markku Suokonautio 75yrs

Prayer of the Day

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 30

- 1 I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
- 2 LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.
- 3 You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit.
- 4 Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.
- 5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.
- 6 When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."
- 7 LORD, when you favored me, you made my royal Mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.
- 8 To you, LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy:
- 9 "What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness?"
- 10 Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me; LORD, be my help."
- 11 You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
- 12 that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever.

First Reading "Acts 9:1 – 20"

1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take

them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. 10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. 11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." 13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." 15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." 17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem 19 Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Second Reading “Revelation 5:11 – 14 ”

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” 13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” 14 The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel “John 21:1 – 19”

Glory to you, O Lord.

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some

bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon

*By Rev. Charles Nolting
“Change”*

The question; “do you love me?” doesn’t just apply to Peter who, you may have noticed, got rather annoyed after it was asked of him over and over again. It seems like such an easy question to answer: “Of course I love you!” Who among us wouldn’t answer in that way? But Jesus asks it over and over again because this is a question that cannot be taken lightly. To sincerely love

Christ is similar to other forms of love in that one has to understand that some parts of your life may have to change.

In our 1st lesson, a similar question was applied to Saul. He was asked; “why do you persecute me?” which could also be interpreted as being asked: “why don’t you love me?” In discovering the answer to such a question, both Peter and Saul were in for a massive change in their lives, changes that they could in no way fully comprehend at the time.

For both of them, answering that question was about how they would come to live their lives in vastly different ways than that which they had gotten used to. Peter had been a fisherman, used to being out on the waters, with lots of physical labor, exposed to the elements, someone who used their hands more than the head to make a living. But in answering Jesus question, he would now live in a totally different way. He would be using his mind, his speech, his heart and, rather than moving from place to place by the wind off the waters, he would now answer to the call of the wind of the Holy Spirit. Life would change for him.

Saul’s life would change as well. As far as we can tell, he had been a very devout Jew, wanting to be a part of what he felt was God’s call for him; to remove from society those who were undermining the religion. You may recall how he stood on the sidelines watching with approval the stoning of Stephen, Christianity’s first martyr. At the time, he felt his calling was to assist however he could, to get rid of these people who were followers of what was back then called, The Way. And so, Saul sought and received authorization to take a trip up to Damascus to arrest any Christians he discovered there.

But Jesus approached Saul in a very unique way. Saul was blinded by the light of the Lord’s glory and days later healed by one of the very people he was out to persecute. It changed him. It gave him a whole new

outlook on life and what life is actually supposed to be about. While Peter had to answer the question of “do you love me?”, Saul had to wrestle with the more difficult question of : “why don’t you love me?”

In wrestling with those questions, they both wound up changing in a variety of ways. Their way of thinking about other people as being included as God’s children changed. Their focus on what is important and meaningful in life changed. And most importantly, because they were receptive to Jesus’ question of loving him, they came to fully trust that when Jesus said “shepherd my sheep”, God would provide ways for that to happen.

The thing that Peter, Saul, (and even I) have found that while we may well have to give up things to change, it is all worth it. When we only focus on what will be lost, we are the ones that lose. We need to focus then on what is to be gained which isn’t always visible to us, so that we have to trust, and often trust blindly; as difficult as that may be. And while it can be difficult to trust, you have to do it completely, and quite often can’t expect immediate results.

If we are going to answer Jesus question of “do you love me”, we want to be reminded today that – like Peter - we are also asked that question over and over. And we answer that question not simply with words alone, but also with actions that may involve a variety of changes in our lives.

My point today is that God is always nudging us, supporting us, encouraging us to be all that we can be by over and over asking us the question of “do you love me?” In the Christian church, seriously considering that question over and over might be considered a calling. Some are called to be pastors, others by serving on council and committees or teaching, yet others taking care of and visiting the sick, and yet others feeding the hungry and serving the poor in some way. And that

isn’t an exhaustive list as there are many other callings to be had in answering that question.

So, while the answer to the question of “do you love me?” may seem easy on the surface, it also requires us to consider how will each of us answer the call to feed and shepherd the sheep God calls us to on a regular basis. Whatever call you wind up answering, be assured that God will guide us in seeking out the answers and being faithful to that calling. Amen.

Prayers

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Holy One of new beginnings, fill us with new life. Send us into the world as you sent your apostles Philip and James, to invite people to come and see your wondrous acts in Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Revive ecosystems along coastlands that have been devastated by natural forces and human negligence. Re-establish plant and animal life that purifies air and water and that feeds humans and other living creatures. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accompany laborers who get little rest from their work. Give them hope when they struggle to produce what they need. Give all who labor fair treatment and just wages. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore all people who cry to you for help. Turn their mourning into dancing, clothe them with joy, and put a testimony of healing and praise on their lips. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be present to faithful ones who are persecuted for following you. Sustain them by your faithfulness and give them strength in the name of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Join our voices with angels, creatures, and all the saints in praising Christ and bestowing upon him all blessing and honor and glory. Reveal Christ’s glory to us and through us in our worship. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray.

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. 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.**