



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 1, 2022

Third Sunday of Easter

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

Chorale Prelude on a Melody by Orlando Gibbons

Healey Willan

Copyright 1950 by Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

The Call to Worship

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: Soar we now where Christ has led, following our exalted Head;

People: made like him, like him we rise; ours the cross, the grave, the skies!

The Hymn No. 355

Depth of Mercy

CANTERBURY

1. Depth of mercy! Can there be
mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God his wrath forbear,
me, the chief of sinners, spare?

2. I have long withstood his grace,
long provoked him to his face,
would not hearken to his calls,
grieved him by a thousand falls.

3. I my Master have denied,
I afresh have crucified,
oft profaned his hallowed name,
put him to an open shame.

4. There for me the Savior stands,
shows his wounds and spreads his hands.
God is love! I know, I feel;
Jesus weeps and loves me still.

5. Now incline me to repent,
let me now my sins lament,
now my foul revolt deplore,
weep, believe, and sin no more.

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life.**

**Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection,
by the renewing of your Spirit, arise from the death of sin
to the life of righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Scripture Lesson

Acts 9:1-20

The Homily

The Conversion of Ananias – and Paul, Too!

Dr. Matthew Bates

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

The Confession and Pardon (in unison)

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will, we have broken your law,

**we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader: Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love towards us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Anthem

Saul Heard the Cry

Christopher Tye

Saul heard the cry we all must hear
Before we come to faith:
“Why do you hound me, little one?
Why do you cause my death?”
But when we cry in turn, “O Lord,
What will you have me do?”
He comes in mercy, “Peace!” He says
“I want to make you new.”

With pulsing, full and bursting heart,
Repeat the Easter song,
The new life celebrate, the feast
Of victory prolong!
The Father of all life be praised,
The Son who vanquished death,
The Spirit, making all things new,
Adore with ev'ry breath.

Paraphrase of Acts 9:1-6 by Jaroslav Vajda

Copyright 1985 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

And so,
with your people on earth
and with all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

William Mathias

5 Ho - ly, ho - ly,

8 ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

12 Heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

16 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

William Mathias

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a-gain!

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:
All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.*

William Mathias

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 that 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. Amen.**

The Giving and Receiving of Communion

The Hymn No. 2152

Change My Heart, O God

CHANGE MY HEART

Change my heart, O God,
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God.
may I be like you.

You are the Potter,
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me,
this is what I pray.

© 1982. Mercy/Vineyard Publishing. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731785. All Rights Reserved.

The Benediction

The Postlude

When We Are Living

Traditional Spanish Melody

*The altar flowers this morning are given by Margie Landers
in memory of my husband John on his birthday.*

*Thank you to all the volunteers who helped us this morning
and throughout the week to make this worship possible.*

Scripture

Acts 9:1 - 20

⁹ Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² 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. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ 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, ¹² 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." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ 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; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ 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." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul Preaches in Damascus

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."