

# EASTER 3

Year C

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## Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

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

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

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” <sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> 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.” <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” <sup>15</sup> 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; <sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” <sup>17</sup> 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.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell

from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

### Commentary from Quincy Hall

Reflecting on Saul’s conversion, I’m moved by the depth of God’s grace that meets him even amid hostility. Saul’s experience on the road to Damascus is a powerful reminder that God’s transformative call can penetrate even our greatest resistance and blindness. I recognize my own moments of spiritual blindness—times when my prejudices or assumptions prevented me from truly seeing Christ in others. Saul’s healing through Ananias also highlights the necessity and beauty of Christian community, emphasizing that God’s transforming work often involves the care and ministry of others.

### Discussion Questions

In what ways do you relate to Saul’s experience of spiritual blindness, and where do you sense God’s invitation toward deeper understanding?

How might God be calling you to participate in the spiritual transformation of others, just as Ananias did for Saul?

## Psalm 30

- <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up \*  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- <sup>2</sup> O Lord my God, I cried out to you, \*  
and you restored me to health.
- <sup>3</sup> You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; \*  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
- <sup>4</sup> Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; \*  
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
- <sup>5</sup> For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, \*  
his favor for a lifetime.
- <sup>6</sup> Weeping may spend the night, \*  
but joy comes in the morning.
- <sup>7</sup> While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed. \*  
You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."
- <sup>8</sup> Then you hid your face, \*  
and I was filled with fear.
- <sup>9</sup> I cried to you, O Lord; \*  
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,
- <sup>10</sup> "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? \*  
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"
- <sup>11</sup> Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; \*  
O Lord, be my helper."
- <sup>12</sup> You have turned my wailing into dancing; \*  
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.
- <sup>13</sup> Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; \*  
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

## Commentary from Quincy Hall

Psalm 30 speaks directly to my experience of moving from despair into hope. The psalmist's journey from mourning to dancing echoes my own story of experiencing God's healing and restoration amid personal difficulty. It reinforces my conviction that resurrection is not only a historical event but also an ongoing reality experienced through God's continual renewal in our lives. Reflecting upon this psalm deepens my awareness that God's faithful presence is consistently transforming sorrow into joy, despair into gratitude.

## Discussion Questions

When has God transformed your mourning into joy, or despair into hope? How has that shaped your faith journey?

How might seeing resurrection as an ongoing spiritual reality affect the way you respond to future moments of difficulty or despair?

## Revelation 5:11-14

<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>singing with full voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

<sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

<sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

## Commentary from Quincy Hall

The scene in Revelation stirs my imagination, painting a powerful picture of universal praise for the resurrected Christ. The multitude of voices—heavenly beings, humanity, and all creation—reminds me of the cosmic significance of Easter. This vision challenges me to broaden my understanding of worship, recognizing it not simply as a personal practice, but as participation in the joyful celebration of Christ’s victory that spans all creation. It also pushes me to consider how my discipleship can reflect Christ’s universal lordship through compassionate care for the world.

## Discussion Questions

How does imagining yourself as part of this cosmic worship gathering expand or challenge your current practices of worship?

Given this vision of universal redemption, what practical actions might you take to align your daily life more closely with God’s redemptive purposes?

## John 21:1-19

21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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 his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. <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.

<sup>9</sup> 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 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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."

### Commentary from Quincy Hall

Reading John's account of Jesus' resurrection appearance on the shore evokes deep gratitude in me for Christ's persistent willingness to offer restoration. Jesus' gentle questioning of Peter after Peter's painful denial feels profoundly personal, revealing a savior who meets us exactly in the spaces of our greatest regret and vulnerability. The threefold repetition of "Do you love me?" not only reinstates Peter but also provides him with clear direction—"Feed my sheep." For me, this narrative is an encouraging reminder that restoration and forgiveness lead directly into mission and responsibility.

### Discussion Questions

Can you recall a moment when Jesus met you compassionately in your own places of regret or failure? How did this encounter renew your sense of purpose?

In practical terms, what might feeding Jesus' sheep look like in your current circumstances or community?