

Call to Worship

***L: Mighty God, it was by your power you raised your Son,  
our Lord Jesus, from death;***

A: by his glorious resurrection, you proved Him victor over death

***L: You have assured all of us, who acknowledge Him as Savior and Lord, that we do not  
need to fear death.***

A: With resurrection joy we have come to worship! Together we proclaim: Christ is risen!"  
"He is risen indeed!"

### **SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY**

John 21:1-17 GNB After this, Jesus appeared once more to his disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how it happened. 2 Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples of Jesus were all together. 3 Simon Peter said to the others, "I am going fishing." "We will come with you," they told him. So they went out in a boat, but all that night they did not catch a thing. 4 As the sun was rising, Jesus stood at the water's edge, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Then he asked them, "Young men, haven't you caught anything?" "Not a thing," they answered. 6 He said to them, "Throw your net out on the right side of the boat, and you will catch some." So they threw the net out and could not pull it back in, because they had caught so many fish. 7 The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Peter heard that it was the Lord, he wrapped his outer garment around him for he had taken his clothes off and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples came to shore in the boat, pulling the net full of fish. They were not very far from land, about a hundred yards away. 9 When they stepped ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there with fish on it and some bread. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net ashore full of big fish, a hundred and fifty-three in all; even though there were so many, still the net did not tear. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. 13 So Jesus went over, took the bread, and gave it to them; he did the same with the fish. 14 This, then, was the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from death. 15 After they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" "Yes, Lord," he answered, "you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my lambs." 16 A second time Jesus said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," he answered, "you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep." 17 A third time Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter became sad because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" and so he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you!" Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep."

**Imagine.** It's been some time since the empty tomb and perhaps since the other appearances of Jesus. But nothing significant has happened. So Peter, *simply not knowing what's next decides to do something he does know about!* **Fishing!** A man after my own heart!!

**He says to the others, "I'm going fishing."**

**As it happens to the best of fisherman they catch nothing!**

The night brings only darkness and empty nets, and they head back toward shore tired, hungry, and probably even more downcast.

**You can imagine this morning...**

As dawn replaces night and the stars fade..a pastel sky slowly unfolds in the sunrise!

**It's a new day!** As the gallant fishermen head for shore they see a man standing on the beach. Behind him a charcoal fire is burning its smoke rising upward in the still morning air. and even out on the water they can catch the smell of fish roasting over the smokey fire making their stomachs ache with early morning hunger.

**They hear the mans friendly voice calling out to them... "Friends, have you any fish?"**

**The disciples, not realizing its jesus simply "weve got nothing!" and *the voice immediately calls back, "Then cast your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some."***

So they did, and it was so full of fish that they couldn't pull it in. At that point John cries out, **"It is the Lord!"**

**Peter jumps into the water racing to meet Jesus!**

*"When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, & bread."*

**A charcoal fire!**

**Notice In John 18 Jesus is arrested / Peter swears to follow Him to death!**

Simon Peter followed Jesus, The maid who kept the door to the court of the high priest said to Peter, "Are you not also one of this man's disciples?" He said, "I am not. ***Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold,...***

**Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself in front of that charcoal fire and was asked two more times..** "Are you not also one of his disciples?" Three times he denied knowing Jesus and then heard the cock crowed.

***"And Peter remembered the word of the Lord,"*** how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." ***"And he went out and wept bitterly."***

Now as Peter raises onto the shore he sees Jesus standing in front of a charcoal fire! *I don't believe this is just a coincidence.* Peter is brought face to face with that night.. his night of failure, shame. I think the guilt overflowed him as he looked a Jesus in front that fire.

He was supposed to have been the "Rock"... he had been shown by the Spirit that Jesus was the messiah. He had promised and vowed to be faithful and at the first challenge had failed the Lord. It hadn't been brought up at their last meeting... it was Thomas on the spot not him. But unspoken didn't fix the shame he felt in his heart.

**But then what happens?**

Does Jesus reproach him? Does Jesus blame him? Does Jesus treat him as a traitor, as a deserter? He doesn't bring it up yet... maybe he knows that spiritual truths are sometimes better received after a good hot meal?

**There is fish on the fire, and there is bread beside it.** Apparently not enough

**Jesus says,** *“Bring some of the fish you just caught...jesus **cooks** it and **serves** them fish and bread... just like old times!*

*I love this picture of Jesus making breakfast! nothing more manly than fishing, cooking and serving food...right men? or can we say "well im not jesus:*

**It was full of large fish, 153** *Why the count? Thats the fishing business!*

**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.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 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.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved 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.” And Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

**Now Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him...**

**And the Bible says that Peter was hurt because he asked him three times...**

but Jesus knew just what he was doing! Just as he knew what Thomas needed to move forward in his faith..

**he knew Peter needed to move beyond his failure,** to not only be forgiven by the Lord but actually receive that forgiveness and move on so that God could use him!

**Peter had denied Jesus three times behind his back...**

**and now he was given the chance to affirm his love to Jesus face/face, heart /heart!**

*What a relief it must have been to Peter to find that Jesus wasn't*

- **wasn't changing his name from the rock to Peter the Perfidious!**
- **Wasn't withdrawing his support**
- **wasn't taking back the call and commission given to him...**
- **Jesus had forgiven him & now was forcing P to look forward & stop looking back!**

**Note what this question was.**

**It was a question concerning Peter's love. He did not say,**

- **“Simon, son of Jonas, do you fear Me.” “Do you admire Me?”**
- **Not even about his faith... do you believe in Me?”**
- **He didn't ask about his works... have you cried a lot Peter after denying Me? Have you prayed and prayed? offered penance?**
- **No, He asked “Do you love Me?”**
- **He asked Peter not about what he was doing, or had done... but about the state of his heart. do you love Me!**

- **Do you love me? Yes, Lord...okay then nourish my children** how with the Gospel, Word of God, tend, care for my children...love them, help them grow in the Lord, protect them from enemy, be patient, forgiving, bear w them, pray for them,

### **Conclusion**

Jesus demonstrated to Peter that he was forgiven and called Peter to look ahead not behind. Peter's sin was forgiven, he was restored in relationship to Christ and it was time to move forward and accomplish what the Lord had for him to do.

Many allow themselves to be defined in their own hearts by their failure, their sins, mistakes. But the Lord doesn't define us like that... when we turn from our sin to Him, he forgives us. Doesn't rename us, take away our call, place or purpose. He throws away our sin and asks us.. Do you love Me? Repent and I forgive! Then Quit looking at the past and consider what I have called you to be and do! You are not defined by your sin but by my grace! If you love me, Then do what I have called you to do: love, care, nourish my children, your brothers sisters! That's our gracious loving Lord! Amen!