

**ST PAUL & ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**



**"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
— Psalm 119:105**

April 19, 2026

"Faithfully Reporting God's Word"

THE PATHLIGHT (A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR)

April 19, 2026

St. Paul Lutheran LCMS
Julesburg, CO

970.474.2592
stpauljules@gmail.com

The Pathlight

*Your Word Is A Lamp To My Feet And A
Light To My Path.
PS 119:105*

Zion Lutheran LCMS
Big Springs, NE

308.289.5148
Muleshoexv@gmail.com

What a Promise!

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." Acts 2:37–40

Amazing what a little water can do, when it is combined with the Word and promise of God. In this reading the Law did its work with the people Peter is preaching to. They have come face to face with the reality of their sin. They have rejected the promised Messiah. They have crucified the Son of God. Now how can a sin like that be atoned for? How can you pay back God for taking the life of His Son? Nothing in the Law of Moses, nothing in the traditions of the Pharisees gave them any reprieve. They were left only with the question, "What shall we do?"

In the face of the accusations of the Law and the reality of their sin Peter gives them the Gospel. The solution is Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. What they could not do, never do, God will do for them. The atonement they could not make has been made for them. The Law they could not fulfill, has been fulfilled for them. In the promise of Baptism, they have the release from their sins and are given the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the promise of Baptism, they will be given faith in the one that they rejected. In the promise of the Gospel, they will be saved from perverted teaching of their generation.

The promise that was for them was not limited to them. It is a promise that was for their children, and all who are far off. It is a promise that covered all sins for all people for all time. In other words, it is a promise that is for you and me. In the waters of our Baptism, we received the forgiveness of sins and God called us to himself. No accusation of the Law, no accusation by Satan himself can take away what God has done for you. By Holy Spirit given faith in the promise of the Gospel you have been saved from the twisted rationalization of this generation. You are a child of the promise and have nothing to fear from the accusations of anyone.

Pastor Christensen

For now we see in a mirror dimly but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 1 Cor. 13:12

Lutheran Worship Service Book

Order of Worship

HYMN # 477 “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

LITURGY pg.184 Divine Service (setting Three) with
Communion

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION pg.184

INTROIT pg.186

SALUTATION and COLLECT pg. 189

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

EPISTLE: 1 Peter 1:17-25

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

NICENE CREED pg.191

HYMN of THE DAY # 483 “With High Delight Let Us Unite”

SERMON

OFFERING

OFFERATORY pg.192

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT pg.194

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

HYMN # 625 “Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread”

488 “H Is Arisen! Glorious Word”

BENEDICTION pg. 202

CLOSING HYMN # 463 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia”

SILENT PRAYER

Serving Today

St. Paul

Usher/Greeters-Dennis Aulston/Brian Boehm

Organist-Jeanie Boehm

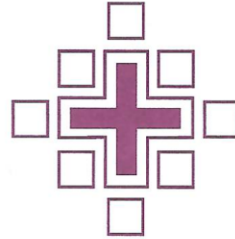
Zion

Usher/Greeters-Mark & Shelle, Altar Guild-Shelle/Jodi, Tanya

Organist-Jeanie Boehm

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026



INTROIT *Ps. 133; antiphon: Ps. 133:1*

Behold, how good and pleas- | ant it is*
when brothers dwell in | unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard,
on the beard of | Aaron,*

running down on the collar | of his robes!

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of | Zion!*

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life for- | evermore.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Behold, how good and pleas- | ant it is*
when brothers dwell in | unity!

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *adapt. from Matt. 28:7; Heb. 2:7; Ps. 8:6*

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor,

He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*

he has put all things un- | der his feet.

DAILY READINGS

April 19: Ex. 32:15–35; Luke 6:39–49; **20:** Ex. 33:1–23; Luke 7:1–17; **21:** Ex. 34:1–28; Luke 7:18–35;

22: Ex. 34:29–35:21; Luke 7:36–50; **23:** Ex. 38:21–39:8, 22–23, 27–31; Luke 8:1–21; **24:** Ex. 39:32–40:16;

Luke 8:22–39; **25:** Ex. 40:17–38; Luke 8:40–56.

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First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36–41

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

³⁶“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17–25

¹⁷If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²²Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for

“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,

²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13–35

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles

from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.



St. Paul

April 20-9:00AM-Bible Study

4:00PM-Organist Meeting

7:00PM-Council Meeting

April 22-5:00PM-Catechism

April 26-8:00AM-Bible Study

9:00AM- Worship Service

Servants for Worship-Jeanie Boehm/Rex Nicolaus/Jay Lindsay

Zion

April 26-10:00AM-Sunday School

11:00AM- Worship Service

Servants for Worship- Jeanie Boehm /Mark & Shelle/Tonia, Jodi & Shelle

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RECOGNITION SUNDAY will be held for Shelby Lechman following the worship service on Sunday, May 3, 2026. Shelby will be graduating from Julesburg High School. Shelby is the daughter of Josh and Brenda Lechman. Please plan to come and join the celebration!

LWML MITE SUNDAYS will be held on April 26, 2026, and May 3, 2026, at St. Paul's. The final projects chosen by the LWML convention attendees in June, 2024, are Orphan Grain Train West Collection Center Shipping Container; Redeemer Lutheran School in Delta, Colorado, Scholarships, Concordia Lutheran Radio Ministry in Mission in Jacmel, Sud-est, Haiti; Kitchen Renovation at God Cares About You, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Mission Evangelica Luterana Confesional en Hoduras; and Lutheran Heritage Foundation Bible Books for Ghana's Children. The mite box will be in the sanctuary on April 26, 2026., and May 3, 2026.. If you wish to write a check, please make the check payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church with Miriam Circle on the Memo Line. New mission grants will be chosen by the delegates of the 2026 LWML RMD Convention in Colorado Springs on June 5-7, 2026.



April 22-

Jeff and Susan Larsen

Forrest and Marlee Sanabria

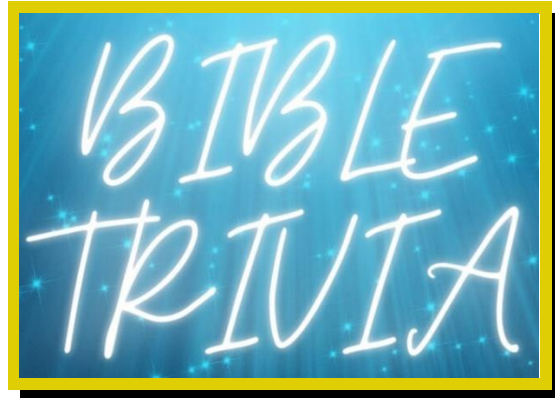
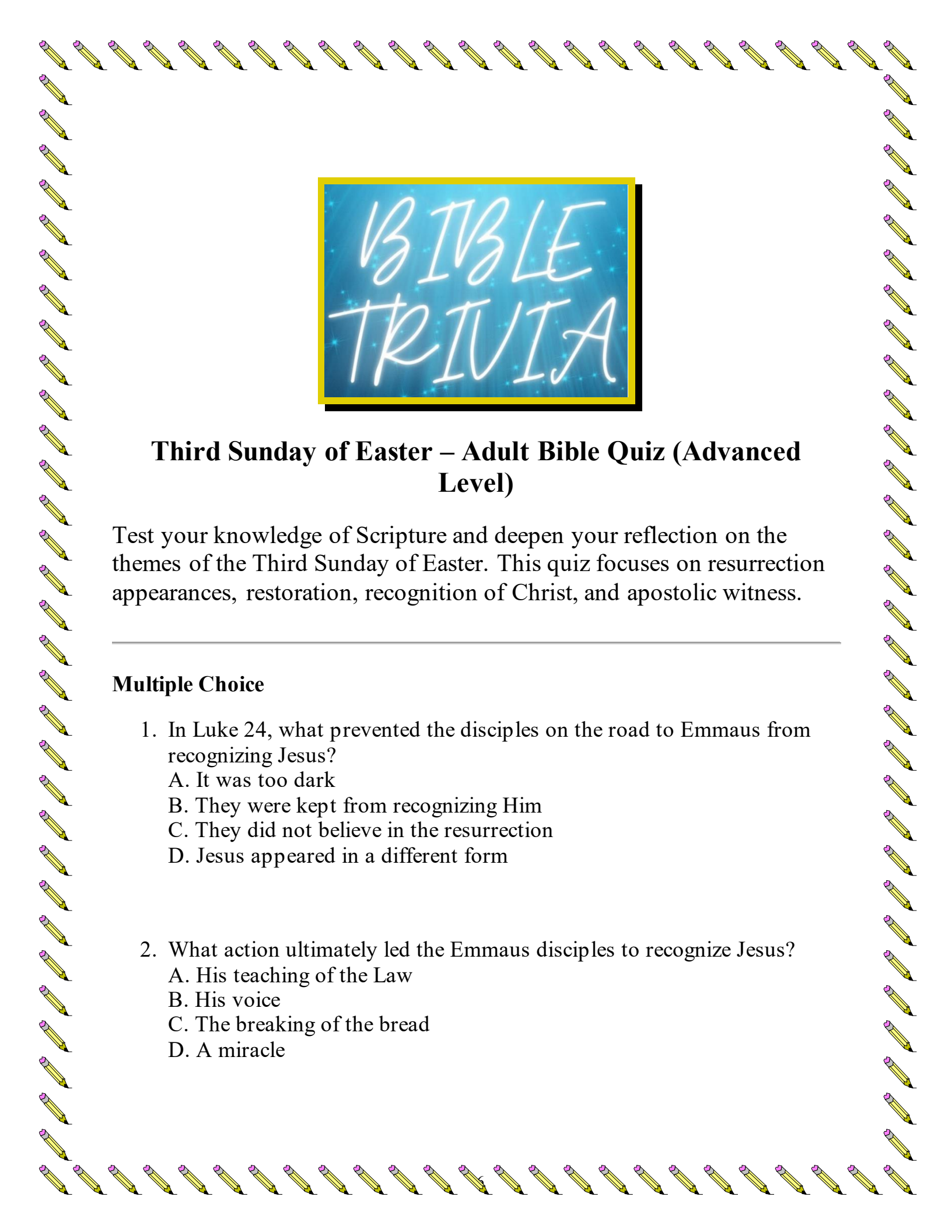


April 24-

Susan Renquist

Kim Lanckriet

May God Bless you on these special days and always!



BIBLE TRIVIA

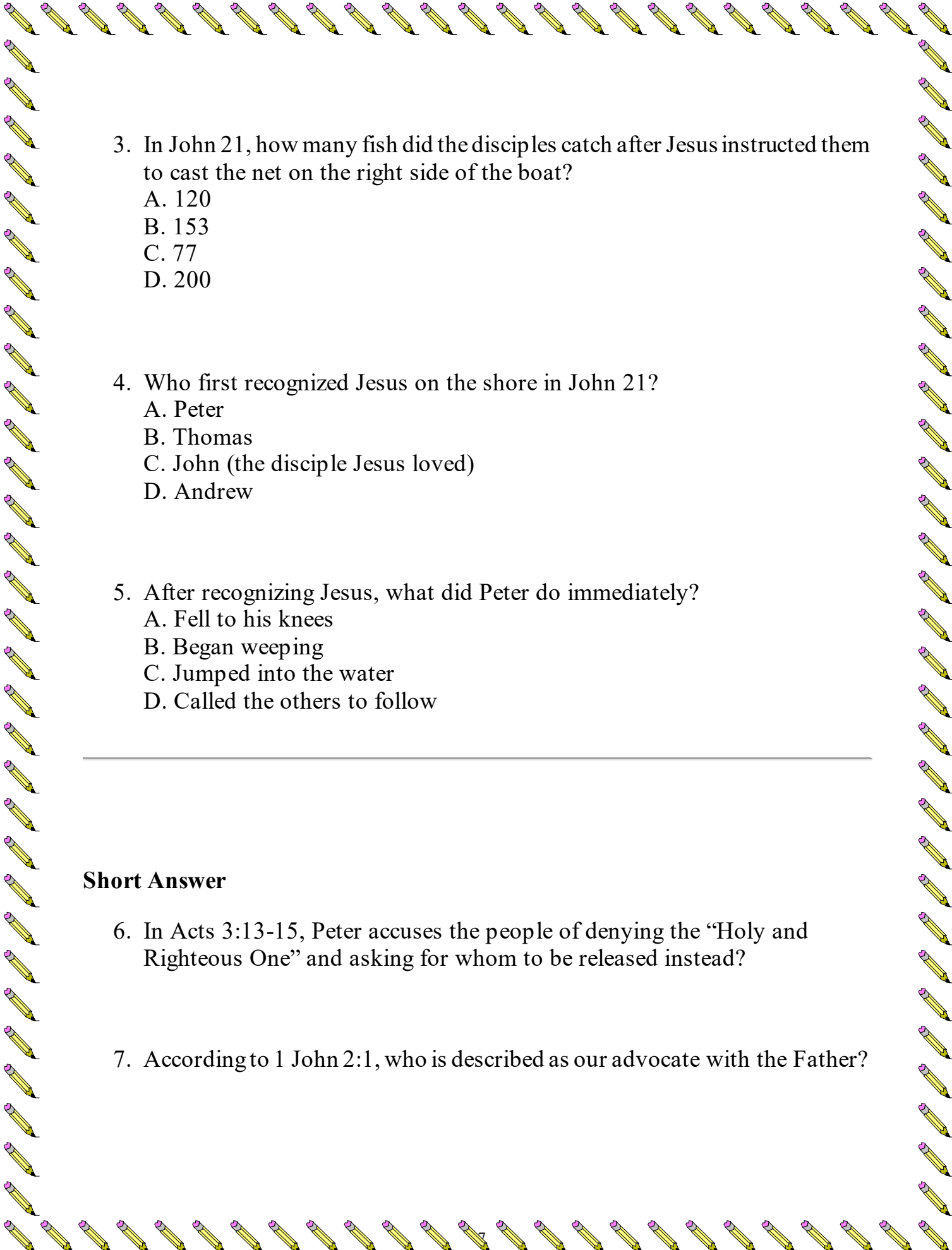
Third Sunday of Easter – Adult Bible Quiz (Advanced Level)

Test your knowledge of Scripture and deepen your reflection on the themes of the Third Sunday of Easter. This quiz focuses on resurrection appearances, restoration, recognition of Christ, and apostolic witness.

Multiple Choice

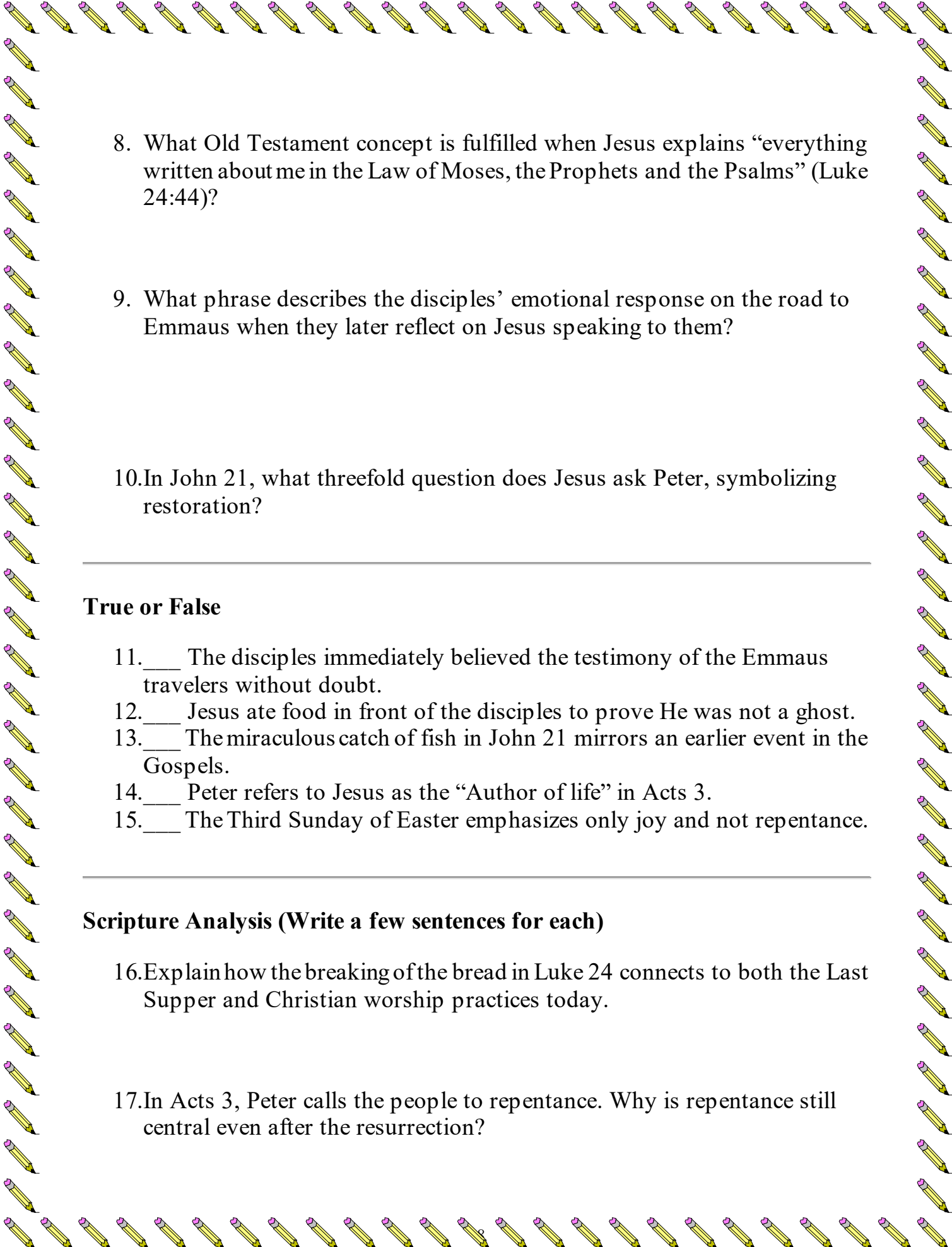
1. In Luke 24, what prevented the disciples on the road to Emmaus from recognizing Jesus?
 - A. It was too dark
 - B. They were kept from recognizing Him
 - C. They did not believe in the resurrection
 - D. Jesus appeared in a different form

2. What action ultimately led the Emmaus disciples to recognize Jesus?
 - A. His teaching of the Law
 - B. His voice
 - C. The breaking of the bread
 - D. A miracle

- 
3. In John 21, how many fish did the disciples catch after Jesus instructed them to cast the net on the right side of the boat?
- A. 120
 - B. 153
 - C. 77
 - D. 200
4. Who first recognized Jesus on the shore in John 21?
- A. Peter
 - B. Thomas
 - C. John (the disciple Jesus loved)
 - D. Andrew
5. After recognizing Jesus, what did Peter do immediately?
- A. Fell to his knees
 - B. Began weeping
 - C. Jumped into the water
 - D. Called the others to follow
-

Short Answer

6. In Acts 3:13-15, Peter accuses the people of denying the “Holy and Righteous One” and asking for whom to be released instead?
7. According to 1 John 2:1, who is described as our advocate with the Father?

- 
8. What Old Testament concept is fulfilled when Jesus explains “everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms” (Luke 24:44)?
9. What phrase describes the disciples’ emotional response on the road to Emmaus when they later reflect on Jesus speaking to them?
10. In John 21, what threefold question does Jesus ask Peter, symbolizing restoration?
-

True or False

11. ___ The disciples immediately believed the testimony of the Emmaus travelers without doubt.
12. ___ Jesus ate food in front of the disciples to prove He was not a ghost.
13. ___ The miraculous catch of fish in John 21 mirrors an earlier event in the Gospels.
14. ___ Peter refers to Jesus as the “Author of life” in Acts 3.
15. ___ The Third Sunday of Easter emphasizes only joy and not repentance.
-

Scripture Analysis (Write a few sentences for each)

16. Explain how the breaking of the bread in Luke 24 connects to both the Last Supper and Christian worship practices today.
17. In Acts 3, Peter calls the people to repentance. Why is repentance still central even after the resurrection?



18. Reflect on Peter's restoration in John 21. What does this teach about forgiveness and leadership?

19. Why is physical evidence (such as eating fish or showing wounds) important in the resurrection narratives?

20. How do these passages together challenge believers to recognize Christ in everyday life?

Bonus Challenge (For deeper study)

21. Compare the reaction of the disciples in Luke 24 with Thomas in John 20. What do these accounts reveal about doubt and faith?

22. Identify at least two parallels between the Emmaus story and the structure of a modern worship service.

23. Why might the number 153 (John 21) be symbolically significant according to biblical scholars?

Answer Key

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. C

6. Barabbas
7. Jesus Christ the righteous
8. Messianic prophecy / fulfillment of Scripture
9. "Were not our hearts burning within us?"

10. "Do you love me?"
(asked three times)
11. False
12. True
13. True
14. True
15. False



Third Sunday of Easter Devotion

“Come and have breakfast.” (John 21:12)

There is something deeply human about the quiet moments after disappointment. The Third Sunday of Easter brings us to such a moment in John 21. The disciples, still trying to make sense of the resurrection, return to what they know best: fishing. They work all night—and catch nothing.

It’s a familiar story, isn’t it? We labor, we try, we return to old routines hoping for comfort, yet sometimes we are met with empty nets. The excitement of Easter morning can fade into the ordinary rhythms of life, and we may wonder: *Now what? Where is Jesus in this in-between space?*

Then, at daybreak, Jesus appears—but unrecognized.

He stands on the shore and calls out, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” After their honest reply, He tells them to cast the net on the right

side. Suddenly, abundance. Nets overflowing. Recognition dawns. It is the Lord.

But what happens next is perhaps the most tender part of the story. Jesus doesn't launch into a lecture or demand explanations for their doubt or fear. Instead, He invites them: "Come and have breakfast."

A Story to Carry with You...Years ago, a woman in a small congregation lost her husband unexpectedly just weeks after Easter. In the days that followed, her home was filled with silence. The resurrection hope she had just proclaimed on Easter Sunday felt distant and abstract against the weight of her grief.

One morning, a few members of her church quietly showed up at her door. They didn't come with grand speeches or theological answers. They brought food—warm bread, eggs, coffee—and simply said, "We thought you shouldn't eat alone."

They sat with her at the kitchen table. There were tears, yes—but also small moments of laughter, shared memories, and a gentle sense of peace. Later, she would say, "That morning, I realized Jesus hadn't left me. He was right there at my table." This is the heart of the resurrection life: not only the empty tomb, but the presence of Jesus in the ordinary, in the tender, in the shared meal.

In John 21, Jesus meets His disciples not in their strength, but in their weariness. Not in their certainty, but in their confusion. And He provides—not just fish, but fellowship. Not just proof, but presence.

For us, this is good news.

Because we, too, have empty-net days. We have mornings when faith feels thin and nights that seem long. We return to old habits, sometimes out of comfort, sometimes out of uncertainty. Yet the risen Christ does not abandon us in these spaces.

He comes to the shore of our lives.

He calls to us, even when we do not immediately recognize His voice.

And then—He invites us to the table.

In the Lutheran tradition, we cherish the ways Christ comes to us through simple, tangible means: Word, water, bread, and wine. These are not grand displays of power, but humble gifts of grace. Like breakfast on the beach, they meet us where we are.

When we gather for worship, when we hear the Word proclaimed, when we receive Holy Communion, we are, in a very real way, sitting at that shoreline meal with Jesus. He feeds us. He restores us. He reminds us who we are: His beloved.

So this week, consider where your nets feel empty. Where are you striving without result? Where has joy faded into routine? Where do you long to see Jesus but struggle to recognize Him?

Listen carefully. He may be closer than you think—standing at the edge of your ordinary life, calling out in ways both subtle and surprising.

And when you hear His invitation—“Come and have breakfast”—receive it.

Sit with Him in the quiet. Share your burdens. Accept His grace. Because the miracle of Easter is not only that Christ is risen, but that He is present—still calling, still feeding, still loving His people.

Prayer- Risen Lord Jesus,

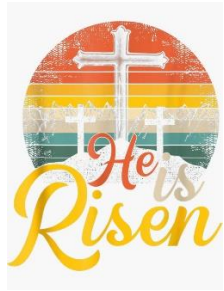
You meet us in our emptiness and call us into Your abundance.

Open our eyes to recognize You in our daily lives.

Feed us with Your grace, restore our weary hearts,
and draw us ever closer to Your table.

In Your holy name we pray,

Amen.



St. Paul Lutheran Church
7th & Maple
PO Box 72
Julesburg, CO 80737

