

## WE CONFESS OUR NEED

All: Almighty God, Heavenly Father, we confess that we are sinners who are unable to heal ourselves. Like Peter, we have denied you and shamed ourselves. There are times we wonder if we can truly know and accept your grace and love. Renew us and help us to hear, like Peter, that you give us your love -- full and free -- and then you invite us to care for others in grateful response. Grant us your forgiveness and restore us to serve you with great joy. Amen.

### Scripture Readings April 6, 2008

Isaiah 40:6-11

A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fade because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

1 Peter 5:1-11

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

John 21:15-19

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly 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 truly 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. I tell you the truth, 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!"

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

### **Sermon Outline - April 6, 2008**

**“An Easter People” • “Do You Love Me?”**

**John 21:15-19**

**Introduction: “Do I what?”**

**“Jesus restores Peter... with love.”**

**• The \_\_\_\_\_ of love.**

*When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” v.15*

• Jesus calls us to an \_\_\_\_\_ love.

• Jesus honors the love \_\_\_\_\_ to give.

• Jesus promises to teach us \_\_\_\_\_ love.

**• The \_\_\_\_\_ of love.**

*Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” v.16*

• \_\_\_\_\_ (feed) my flock...

• \_\_\_\_\_ (pastor) my sheep...

• \_\_\_\_\_ whose sheep they are!

**Answers to Sermon Outline:**

question, unconditional, we are able, an ever greater; actions, Pasture, Shepherd, Remember