

Littleton United Methodist Church
April 18, 2010
The Third Sunday of Easter
Service of the Word

Prelude

During the prelude, please silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Members and guests please sign the friendship pad located at the end of the pew.

+Introit #304

Easter People, Raise Your Voices (verse 1 only)

LANCASHIRE

+Greeting

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Join me on the Way, and our eyes shall see a heavenly light.

People: **Lead us up the higher road, even if the light should blind us.**

Pastor: Join me on the Way, and our ears shall hear a heavenly voice.

People: **Lead us up the higher road, even if the voice should deafen us.**

Pastor: Join me on the Way, and our lives shall gain a heavenly cause.

People: **Lead us up the higher road, even if the cause should test us.**

Pastor: We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion:

People: **We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.**

+Entrance Hymn #173

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

Prayer of the Day

God of love, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead to reign in power, we honor and bless you, even as we seek wisdom to follow where Christ leads. May your favor rest upon us, your joy fill our lives, your love motivate all we do. Make us instruments of good news who carry your name to others and share your blessing with delight. AMEN.

The First Reading

Acts 9:1-20

Lois Weaver, Lay Reader

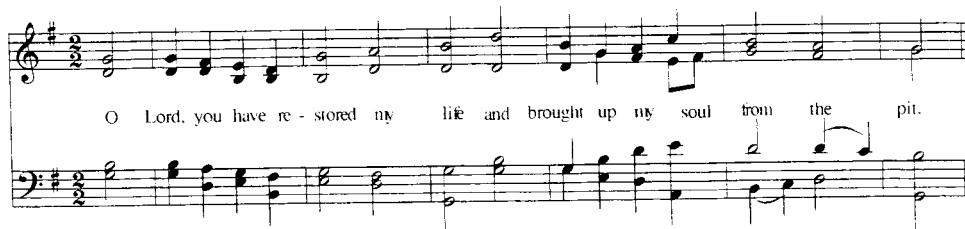
Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound

but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter

Psalm 30



I will extol you, O Lord, for you have lifted me up,
 and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

**O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
 and you healed me.**

O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,

Restored me to life from among those gone down to the pit.

R

Sing praises to the Lord, O his faithful ones,
 and give thanks to his holy name.

**Surely the Lord's anger is but for a moment;
 the Lord's favor is for a lifetime.**

Weeping may tarry for the night,
 but joy comes with the morning.

**As for me, I said in my prosperity,
 "I shall never be moved."**

By your favor, O Lord,
 you had established me as a strong mountain;

**you hid your face,
I was dismayed.**

R

To you, O Lord, I cried,
and to the Lord I made supplication:

**“What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the pit?”**

Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

**Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!”**

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth
and girded me with gladness,

that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

R

The Second Reading

Revelation 5:11-14

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

He Is the Risen Lord

MARTIN

+Gospel Acclamation #2043 *Alleluia*

+The Holy Gospel

John 20:19-31

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord, the word of God for us, the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Down the Damascus Road”

Rev. Rob Licht

+Hymn #591

Rescue the Perishing

RESCUE

+The Apostles' Creed

Page 881

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we admit to attitudes that exclude rather than embrace. We prefer to associate with others who think and act as we do. We turn away from those who are

different from us. We identify some as enemies to be avoided or even destroyed. Forgive us, O God, for seeking to limit your family. Awaken us to the limits of our understanding and the narrowness of our dealings. Show us the better ways you intend and make us bold to respond, we pray in Jesus name. AMEN.

A Moment of Silent Confession

Words of Pardon

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet Sinners; that proves God's love toward 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

A special note to our guests: The ministries and work of our church are supported by the generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel compelled to make a contribution. Please accept this time of worship as our gift to you. We hope that it has been meaningful and that you will worship with us again.

+The Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

+The Prayer of Dedication

The Prayers

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Page 895

+Closing Hymn #307

Christ Is Risen

W ZLOBIE LEZY

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response #310

He Lives (refrain only)

ACKLEY

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

+The congregation will stand as you are able

*** Printed copies of the sermon are available after the service in each narthex*

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 52



Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
11:20 Sunday school
Noon Lunch Bunch

Monday: 1:00 PM Blanket Bee / Sewing Circle

Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Study
7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday: 10:00 AM - noon Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

Our Gifts

Offerings 4/4

\$2,677.25



The flowers today were given
by Martha & Bob Hayes
to the Glory of God

Our Mission Statement

Littleton United Methodist Church strives to provide all-inclusive worship of
God through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are committed to deepening our spiritual growth.

We are to minister in Christ's name to the needy, the sick, the dying, the
unchurched, and to each other.

We are to be active Christians, spreading the Good News.

We are to strive to witness for Jesus in our daily lives, in our community and
throughout the world.



Our Service

Serving in Worship:

Choir Director / Organist: Tom Parker
Organist emeritus: Trudi May
Acolyte: Martha Sherman
Greeters: Loretta Woodburn (east)
Barbara Reinhardt (west)
Ushers: George Alston (east)
Sherm Merchant (west)
Lee Reinhardt (west)
Nursery: as needed
Sound: Dick O'Sullivan
Ed Angel

2010 Committee Chairpersons:

Administrative Council: Richard Sherman
Congregational Care: Jean Houston
Shepherding: Elizabeth Solovieff
Discipleship: Helen Burtchell
Age Level: Diana Parham
Outreach: Helen Burtchell
Missions: Richard Sherman
Finance: Mike Herman
Pastor-Parish: Sherman Merchant
Lay Leadership: Rob Licht
Trustees: Shirley Anschutz
Kitchen: Marie Fields
Membership: Marj Prescott
Scholarship: Marvin Newsom III
Memorials: Matt Johnston
Newsletter: Susan Merchant
Sunday School Superintendent: Jean Jarvis

Serving in our Church, Community and World

There will be a **Lunch Bunch** at noon in our fellowship hall. All are invited to share a delicious lunch for a donation

The **Blanket Bee/Sewing Circle** will meet at 1:00 PM in the fellowship hall. All ladies are invited.

The **Littleton ACTS Food Pantry** will be open on Friday from 10:00 Am until noon.

*****Note—the side door will be locked during the worship service.**