

Texts of the devotions on Quasimodogeniti, April 11, 2021

We would like to know whether the text versions of the online devotions are helpful to you, and so we would welcome your feedback under: christuskirche-altendorf@web.de

Music (*Ulrike Jerosch, Organ*)

Johann Sebastian Bach – Prelude in G-major

Text for the sermon (*John 21, 1-14; read by Heribert Kolosko*)

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas [...], Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+21%2C+1-14&version=NIV>

Sermon (*Predicant Michael Basmer*)

"In the text today's sermon is based on we find some of Jesus' disciples who have spent a fairly bad night. They were out fishing but didn't catch one single fish. Morning has come, and they are completely exhausted and depressed. On the shore there is Jesus, but they do not know it is him. And this early riser who apparently is a stranger to them calls to them to throw out the net to the right-hand side, although they have only just hauled it in, empty.

In the first verses of the 5th chapter of the Gospel according to Luke we find a similar event. The disciples had experienced another such unsuccessful catch of fish, and then their master's appeal to go out fishing again. 'Master, we have worked all night and not caught anything, but if you say so, I will throw out the net again', Peter had said then.

This time, are they perhaps reminded of that incident: Hang on, haven't we had this before, when our Master helped us miraculously? This morning the disciples trust his

words and catch a large number of fish, so many that they are not able to haul in the net. At that moment John realizes: It is the Lord.

On the shore Jesus is already waiting for them with a breakfast laid out. There is freshly grilled fish and bread as well. A breakfast on the lake. What a wonderful image. Everything has been prepared, you only have to sit down and enjoy. I think that very often we are not aware of the good time we have. A good breakfast is a good start into a successful day with its many challenges in our lives. Every morning in our lives Jesus is there on the shore and invites us for breakfast. Humans do not live on bread alone, but on every word that God speaks, Jesus tells us in Matthew 4, verse 4.

Dear sisters and brothers, we have already lived through such a long time of want. One Christmas and two Easter times without real-life services. We go from one lockdown to the next, and nobody really seems to know a way out. All our human helplessness is becoming evident. But is it not God's word that has sustained us spiritually up to this day, and goes on to give us new strength? Is it not his spirit that unites us, and gives us the courage and the motivation to do online devotions in these days? Is it not the love of our merciful God that keeps us together as a church? Our master Jesus Christ is in the boat with us, and will also see us safely through this corona tempest. Let us continue to trust him, let us live in his word which sustains us. Christ is there on the shore of our lives and has prepared everything, in the beginning as well as at the end. Already I am looking forward to the next real-life services. May God grant us that this time will come soon. As Christians, I would like to repeat, let us pray that God makes the time pass more quickly, and perhaps we will soon be able to say, come, let us have breakfast together. Let us have breakfast with the Lord, in our community, together. May you all keep safe, protected, and in good health. The Lord bless you. Amen!"

Music (*Ulrike Jerosch, Organ*)

Johann Sebastian Bach – Fugue in G-major

The Lord's Prayer

Vater unser im Himmel.	Our Father in heaven.
Geheiligt werde dein Name.	Hallowed be your name.
Dein Reich komme.	Your kingdom come.
Dein Wille geschehe,	Your will be done,
wie im Himmel, so auf Erden.	as in heaven, so on earth.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.	Give us today our daily bread.
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,	And forgive us our sins,
wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern.	as we forgive those who sin against us.
Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,	Lead us not into temptation,
sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.	but deliver us from evil.
Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft	For the kingdom, the power
und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit.	and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.	Amen.