

**Easter 3B - Pericope Study for Sunday, April 15, 2018**  
 Presented Tuesday, April 10, 2018 by Richard Burgess

**Collect / POD (ELW)**

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**General Thoughts & Questions for the Week**

Can you give a title or theme to this week in five words or less? Why does / doesn't this exercise make sense?

**Possible Sermon Titles for Easter 3B**

As usual, use at your own risk.

	<b>Acts</b>	<b>1 Jn</b>	<b>Lk</b>
By Faith in His Name	X		
So Your sins May Be Wiped Out	X		
We Are Witnesses: We Killed Him and God Raised Him from the Dead	X		
Are You Guilty? Are You Lawless?		X	
Righteous Is As Righteous Does		X	
See What Love the Father Has Given Us		X	
The World Doesn't Know Us		X	
We Will Be Like Him		X	
Beginning in Jerusalem			X
Is It Jesus or Is It a Ghost?			X
Jesus Ate in Their Presence			X
Peace Be with You			X
Repentance and Forgiveness Are to Be Proclaimed in His Name			X
You Are Witnesses of These Things			X
Repent! Turn to God!	X		X

## Acts 3:12-19

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him.

<sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

<sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

## Notes, Observations, & Questions:

3.13 *You Israelites* – audience? “All the people” in Solomon’s Portico (Acts 3.11)?

3.12 *wonder at this & we had made him walk* Peter had just healed a crippled man.

3.13 *The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus* What is the purpose of invoking the ancients? How does this bear on Jesus?

3.13 *though (Pilate) had decided to release him* In Jesus’ trial before Pilate (Lk 23.1-25; remember that Acts is Luke part II), Pilate found no fault with Jesus and tried to release him, but ultimately caved in to the leaders and the crowd. Does this verse shift the blame from Pilate to “you”?

3.15 *To this we are witnesses.* What is the significance of “this”, particularly the way it has been presented in 3.13-15?

3.16 *faith in his name* Why *faith in his name* and not in “him” (Jesus)? What is the connection between “the Author of Life” and “his name”?

3.17 If the audience (*friends*) acted in ignorance, what is their role in fulfilling that (*God’s*) Messiah would suffer? How does or doesn’t this relate to their repentance and wiped out sins?

## 1 John 3:1-7

<sup>3.1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

<sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

## Notes, Observations, & Questions:

3.2 Note the sequence:

*We are God's children now.*

*What we will be has not yet been revealed.*

*When he (not "it") is revealed, we will be like him*

What is the distinction between being God's children and being like God?

3.3 What is the purpose of "purify(ing) themselves"? How is *just as he is pure* relevant?

3.6 *No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.* Is this really true? How do you nuance the absolute and/or relative aspects of this?

## Luke 24:36b-48

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself.

Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

<sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.”

## Notes, Observations, & Questions:

Note the parallels in the other gospels. (attached from Aland, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels*) What are we to make of all the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus?

Context:

Lk 24.1-12 Resurrection

Lk 24.13-36a Road to Emmaus

**Lk 24.36b-48 Today's Lesson**

Lk 24.49 Wait in Jerusalem

Lk 24.50-53 Ascension

24.37 *ghost* Gk: *pneuma* “spirit”

24.38 *doubts arise* Gk: *dialogismoi anabainousin* “thoughts / questions come up”

24.43 By eating something, did Jesus prove he wasn't a ghost?

24.46-47 *Thus it is written . . . and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.* Is this Luke's equivalent of Matthew's “Great Commission”? (<sup>8</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mt 28.18-20 NRSV)

24.48 What is the significance of *You are witnesses of these things*?