

Angel at the tomb
Stain glass window St. John's Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2020

Welcome to this service on the 3rd Sunday in the Easter Season. Through the Holy Spirit, let us invite Christ into our hearts through our worship at home and over the air waves today. Our first hymn is *Hallelujah! Jesus Lives* printed in your bulletin which may also be accessed at the West Kish Presbyterian web page.

We will be singing verses 1, 3 and 5

1 Hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lives! He is now the Liv - ing One;
2 Je - sus lives! Why do you weep? Why that sad and mourn - ful sigh?
3 Je - sus lives! And thus, my soul, Life e - ter - nal waits for you;
4 Je - sus lives! Let all re - joice. Praise him, ran - somed of the earth.

From the gloom - y halls of death Christ, the con - quer - or, has gone,
He who died our broth - er here Lives our broth - er still on high,
Joined to him, your liv - ing head, Where he is, you shall be too;
Praise him in a no - bler song, Cher - u - bim of heav'n - ly birth.

Bright fore - run - ner to the skies Of his peo - ple, yet to rise.
Lives for - ev - er to be - stow Bless - ings on his Church be - low.
With the Lord, at his right hand, As a vic - tor you shall stand.
Praise the vic - tor king, whose sway Sin and death and hell o - bey.

5 Hallelujah! Angels, sing!
Join with us in hymns of praise.
Let your chorus swell the strain
Which our feeble voices raise:
Glory to our God above
And on earth his peace and love!

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin and whose mercy endures forever. God of tender mercy, steadfast love and loving kindness, come to the help of your people, in this time. Give us the power of your Holy spirit that we may confront injustice in the world, confess shortcomings and failings in our own lives, receive your forgiveness, and grow in to the fullness of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen

C: Gracious God have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to You and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: God who is rich in mercy holds us in steadfast love. By God's grace we are forgiven

C: Thanks be to God. Amen

KYRIE

P: Kyrie Eleison

Lord Have Mercy

P: Christe Eleison

Christ Have Mercy

P: Kyrie Eleison

Lord Have Mercy

THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you.

Let us extend the peace, to the North, South, East and West, beyond the walls of our homes and into the world.

GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS and PSALM (you are encouraged to read these in your celebrate, bulletin or Bible before the service)

A reading from Genesis 7:1,10, 22-24, Genesis 8:4-12, 14-15

And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. . . and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

And the waters swelled upon the earth a hundred and fifty days.

And God made a wind blow over the earth, . . .and the waters gradually receded from the earth.

Then he (Noah) sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him.

He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.

Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying.

In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark, . .

Here ends the reading. Amen

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ sung by Lisa Griffith

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia

PSALM 116:1-4, 12-14

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to John 24:13-35

C Glory to you, O Lord.

(after the reading)

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE and Music Meditation: *The Crown's Lament*
Rev. Ela J. Robertson

In a recent stream from the office of the Lutheran church, Bishop Eaton urged us to keep our eyes open and to notice where Jesus is showing up in the midst of this crisis. Luke's story of the road to Emmaus is about exactly that. Jesus is showing up in the lives of two disciples as they walk toward Emmaus. Scholars are not sure who they are, two men or perhaps a man and a woman, they both are so focused on the news of a recent disaster, which ironically is about Jesus, that they don't even recognize him! They tell of a vision of angels who said Jesus is alive. Yet they don't see that he is alive right there next to them on the road, with them on their journey.

It is not until they share a meal that they recognize him in the breaking and blessing of the Bread. How much have we been missing community, missing fellowship, and how much, for many of us, have we been missing communion, sharing the bread and the cup as the body of Christ, the church. Even without sharing communion together as the church we can continue to notice other ways Christ is showing up in our lives and in the world, other ways we can respond to need and suffering with Christ's love, other ways that bring us into communion with strangers on the road. We do not have to wait for this.

This is one of the messages that stands out for me in this reading from Luke today. There are two others. One is in the simple expression - "these days" *"Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"* (Luke 24:18) The crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus marked time in an unexplainable and definitive way that they can only express as "these days." 'These days', 'in this time' are expressions at home in Biblical literature but they are not usually heard in our everyday language.

However, with the advent of the Covid crisis they are suddenly in the news casts, in our conversations, in common parlance. We don't yet know the beginning and ending of 'these days or this time' but we know it is epic, life med-dling, life forfeiting and life changing for all who prevail. We know that this time will bring, as many now say, "a new normal, a new." This was true as well for that time in Jerusalem when Jesus brought a new life, a new law, a new love that few could even then grasp.

The other verse that stands out for me in this reading is Luke 2:27: *"Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he (Jesus) interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures."* We know that for the people of Jesus' time most of what they knew as the scriptures, we now know as the Old or First Testament. There are some religious traditions that only preach out of the New Testament. I have had people ask me to do the same and I wish I had thought of giving them this quote at the time, Jesus pointing to his story, the gospel story laid out in the Old Testament.

Jesus wants to help them know him, help them understand, He himself asserts that the groundwork for the gospel story, the explanation of the events of his life, death and resurrection that they were experiencing are all there, proclaimed in their scriptures. Noah lived perhaps thousands of years before Moses, so the story of the Flood may not be included in the examples Jesus was referring to, however, even here, I see a message of salvation, of Christ's peace.

As I wandered through the dappled light in an empty sanctuary that first Sunday of the shut down, the center window featuring a dove descending with an olive branch in its beak, spoke to me. It immediately brought to my mind the dove sent out from Noah's ark, the dove who returns with the olive branch, bringing good news of new life after the flood. I couldn't help thinking: "Aren't we all like Noah closed up in our own little arks?" Aren't we all waiting for the good news that the flood tide of the corona virus has abated and we can safely step out into the world again?

Eagerness to restart our lives and concerns for community safety may clash and even take on political tones as we try to discern what God wants for us and from us. In the Genesis story the rain continued 150 days, when it stopped they had already been in the ark five months. "Oh, goodness," we think, in only week five of our own isolation, "let's stop that comparison right here! When will those peaks appear? "

It wasn't until about two-and-a-half months after the rains stopped that those on the ark were able to see the highest peaks in the region appear and the ark came to rest on massive mountains of Ararat. The floods continued to abate until by the 10th month lower peaks in the range began to appear. But the pervasive flood water still filled the valleys, they still could not leave the ark and be assured of survival, know that they could work, plant and harvest, feed their flocks.

They waited another 40 days, before Noah sent out the dove to bring news, an assessment of whether it was possible for them to disembark soon. But after seven days the dove having found no place to set foot on earth, returned to the Ark - and this is my favorite part of the story- Noah extended his arm and lovingly brought it in again. Noah is hopeful, Noah is eager to begin the new life that God has prepared for them. Noah is also patient and tender toward the dove who brings news he would rather not have.

Waiting another seven days he sent out the dove again and that evening it brought back an olive leaf, sign of new life at least in the tree tops. And still Noah waited. I ask myself, how much is this like God the Father waiting for the right time, the appointed time to send the son? How much is this relationship between Noah and the dove and the hopeful news it brings, like humanity waiting for the Messiah, waiting for the Peace on earth that the savior will bring? How much does this narrative of waiting and hope prepare us for the very truth Christ is helping his disciples to understand in Luke?

It is another seven days before Noah sends out the dove again. It did not come back and it is assumed it found footing, a place to nest, to rest to build a new life on earth. Symbolically, we could say the Holy Spirit prepared the way. And yet - and we are all getting a little impatient with this now as we overlay our own 'flood' upon this story - it is another two-and-a-half months before God says, "Go now out of the ark", and they went out into the world to create a new life. More than a thousand years later Jesus, as in Luke, is speaking to his disciples, he now has set foot on earth, lived, taught and died on earth to bring the Peace of Christ, the peace of his presence here and in eternal life.

There is another stained glass window at West Kish showing an olive or palm branch and a lamp sitting on top of a large book, probably a Bible. These items symbolize the Peace, the Word of Christ, wisdom and light. As I held Curbside Church the first two weeks of the stay at home order, asking for prayer requests of congregants who stood in their front door while I greeted them from their yard or driveway, several offered the prayer "that this would just be over with." When I looked at that Aladdin-like lamp in that window, I just wanted to grab the lamp, rub it, have three wishes and yes, "just make all this be over."

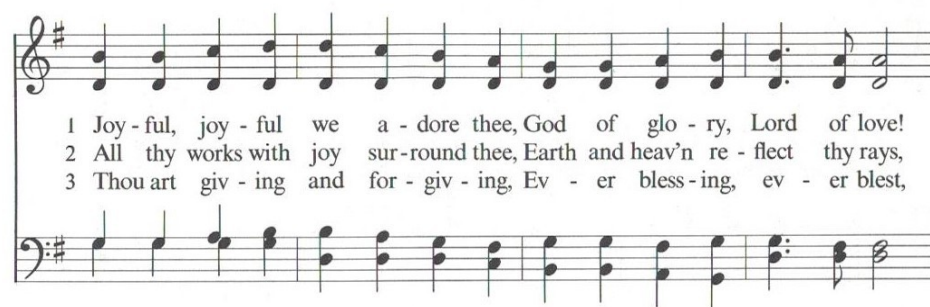
Yet, Noah persevered, and with the help of God we continue to persevere. We do not have an Aladdin's lamp or three wishes but we do have prayer. Let us use this time of music to delve into prayer recognizing the seriousness of this time, the stress, the loss, the hopes and dreams. Let us realize that God laments with us while the great tenderness, of the living Christ, is with us always.

This piece is indeed a lament and appropriate that we will follow it with the hymn "Joyful, Joyful" introduced in Beethoven's 9th with the words "O friends, no more these sounds! Let us sing more cheerful songs, more full of joy! Joy, bright spark of divinity." Let us embrace both the reality of suffering and the joy of the resurrection in this time of meditation and prayer.

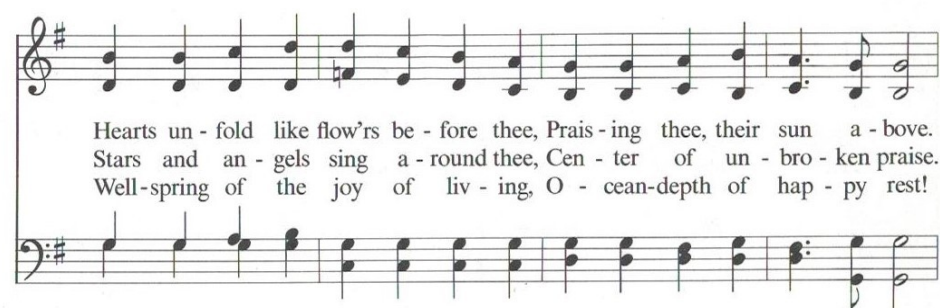
HYMN ~ "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" *All verses*

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

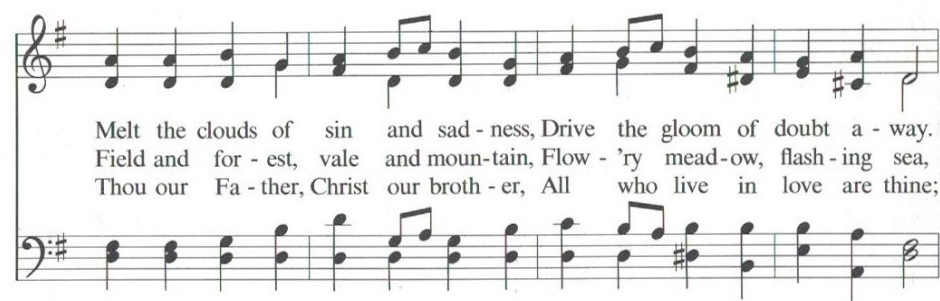
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1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, Prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, All who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di-vine!

OFFERTORY (you may submit your offering by mail, drop it off at the church or include it your automatic bill paying program from your bank.)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them abundance, just as you do with our lives. Amen.

APOSTLES CREED - Proclaiming our Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS of the CHURCH ~ *see celebrate insert.*

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

In the words of General Presbyter Joy Kaufmann as we strive to survive this strange time in our world's history. We grieve with those who have lost loved ones. We pray for those who are sick. We pray protection for those who are vulnerable. We give praise to the one who reigns on the Throne.

Forgive us for broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate. Restrain the nations from fighting over or hoarding limited resources, restrain and redeem us from those using the vulnerability of this pandemic as an opportunity for untruths, slander, terrorism and violence.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray especially today for Steve Metzger after his truck accident, for Glenn and Anne Peachey as they travel home from Florida, for Jean and Larry's daughter and for family members of those in this parish and around the world who are serving in hospitals, public service and essential businesses. We pray for those emotionally and financially impacted by the pandemic. Be with all those in Valley View and other residencies isolated from visits from friends and family and especially those in fragile conditions that may continue to know your strength, encouragement and love. Extend your hand, enter our rooms that we may receive your love and hope.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN ~ "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" *All verses*

Our worship team this morning includes:

Rev. Ela J. Robertson

Ed Bilich and Matt Waddell ~ readers

Lisa Griffith ~ cantor

John Haubrick ~ organ

William Cullingford ~ recording tech.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

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1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry That love, that
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, And sing to -

tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
song to strew his way; Let all the world re - joice and say:
life which can - not die, And sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
day with one ac - cord, The life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

Church Office: 935-2032 **Email us at** stjohnco@embarqmail.com

St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Please remember in prayer ~ Terry and Rosalie Long and family as they continue to grieve the recent death of their son, Zach; Audrey Michael, Sally Shingler (now at Valley View), Donna Snook (now in a nursing facility under Hospice care), (sisters of Lucy Magda and Nancy Aumiller, all dealing with health concerns); Kim Aumiller, Ev Young, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Carol Yoder, Diddy Cleck, Betty Smith, Nancy Aumiller (VVH).

We continue to air our Sunday worship at 10:30am on radio stations AM 670 or FM 92.9. The service may also be streamed on your phone or computer at biglewie.com. Scroll down and click on 'Listen'.

St. John's is ringing its bell (approx. 10:15am) every Sunday morning before our radio worship service begins. Open a window or step outside and listen for its beautiful toll.

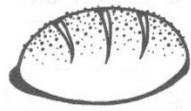
Church office hours ~ 8:00am – 1:00pm Monday's and Thursday's. Your offering can be mailed to P.O. Box 5716 or place it in the mail slot found in the side door leading into the coatroom area off the narthex.

The ELCA provides ministry to its members, to those who are hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need. To continue this important work, the church needs your help.

With congregations and ministries across the country, and a network of companion churches and partners in over 70 countries around the world, we anticipate this crisis will affect us all. In the United States, unemployment has soared. We see rising demands on our food pantries, homeless shelters and social services. Around the world, millions of people living in poverty are facing this pandemic without reliable access to sanitation and health care.

Now is a time when we need one another. Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God.

You can help by supporting your congregation and making a gift to the ELCA's COVID-19 Response Fund. Your donation will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes our congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need.



Celebrate

Third Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2020

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

Prayer of the Day

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:

³⁶"Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ

so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Psalm

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; refrain, Ps. 116:13



I will call up - on the name of the LORD.

I love the LORD, who has ¹heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹supplication,
²for the LORD has given ¹ear to me
whenever ¹er I called.

³The cords of death entangled me;
the anguish of the grave ¹came upon me;
I came to ¹grief and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name ¹of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray you, ¹save my life." **R**

¹²How shall I re- ¹pay the LORD
for all the good things God has ¹done for me?

¹³I will lift the cup ¹of salvation
and call on the name ¹of the LORD.

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows ¹to the LORD
in the presence of ¹all God's people.

¹⁵Precious in your ¹sight, O LORD,
is the death ¹of your servants.

¹⁶O LORD, truly I ¹am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me ¹from my bonds.

¹⁷I will offer you the sacrifice ¹of thanksgiving
and call upon the name ¹of the LORD. **R**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows ¹to the LORD
in the presence of ¹all God's people,

¹⁹in the courts of ¹the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. ¹Hallelujah! **R**

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways

inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation

continued

of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over 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 took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed 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 they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

For those whose hearts are fervent with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the diverse natural world: for jungles, prairies, forests, valleys, mountains, and for all the wild and endangered animals who call these spaces home, that they are nurtured and protected. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the faith forming ministries of this church. For those preparing for baptism, first communion, confirmation, and membership (*especially*). For those who participate in Sunday school and adult education; guide and inspire learners of every age and ability. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Create in our hearts a yearning to rest in your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give us thankful hearts for those who have died, even as we look forward to the hope of new life with you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 134. **Tuesday** 1 Peter 2:1-3. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380) Exodus 24:1-11. **Thursday** Psalm 23. **Friday** (Philip and James, Apostles) John 14:8-14. **Saturday** (commemoration of Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373) Ezekiel 34:1-16. **Fourth Sunday of Easter** Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10.

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