

Third Sunday of Easter  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Introduction to the Day

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.

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

**And also with you**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
by whose hand we are given new birth,  
by whose speaking we are given new life.  
**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Silence for Reflection*

Holy God,  
holy and merciful,  
holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.  
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.

*As water is poured into the font*

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.  
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,  
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and  
creatures.  
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us  
from you.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.  
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.  
Where despair prevails, grant hope.  
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.  
We ask this through Christ,  
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”

#385 vs. 1,3,4

**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.**

**Reading: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19**

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,  
<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

**<sup>4</sup>Then I called upon the name of the LORD:**

**“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD

for all the good things God has done for me?

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift the cup of salvation**

**and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD

in the presence of all God’s people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your sight, O LORD,**

**is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving**

**and call upon the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD

in the presence of all God’s people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of the LORD’s house,**

**in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Children’s Message**

**Gospel:** Luke 24:13-35

<sup>3</sup>Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then 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?” <sup>19</sup>He 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, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But 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. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and 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. <sup>24</sup>Some 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.” <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But 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. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They 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?” <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **Praise to You, O Christ**

### **Sermon**

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

In this season of Easter we hear resurrection account after resurrection account after resurrection account. Just last week we heard of Jesus appearing to the disciples and bringing them a word of peace. Poor Thomas was absent and struggled to believe what had taken place. He needed, he yearned, for his own resurrection encounter. And a week later Jesus appears again. Thomas sees. Thomas believes.

In that account the disciples found themselves locked in their own grief, afraid of who might be after them, and Jesus shows up. We hear that in the tomorrows that do come, Jesus brings peace and sends us out into the world to do the work.

In our Gospel text for today, we find ourselves again on that first day. The day of the resurrection. Luke's gospel has two of the disciples seemingly headed home. On the road to Emmaus. We encounter two disciples ready to move on with their life. This man they have followed for the last few years is now gone, to carry on what he taught them would be detrimental to their safety, so they're heading home. Back to whatever it was that they used to do.

Then Jesus shows up. And walks along the road with them.

Now, we know Jesus to have had some pretty remarkable things happen in his life.

The Jesus we know calms storms, walks on water, feeds thousands with next to nothing, and has the heavens open up and God declaring, "this is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

We know that Jesus *could* have made a grand appearance to them. But he didn't.

Coming alongside them in their grief and wondering about the future, Jesus walks with them. He lets them process all that has happened, almost playing dumb. And then recites to them all that the prophetic texts told them would happen.

But they still didn't know.

And he is ready to move on. He was prepared to NOT make it known to them that it was him.

Thankfully, they were Jesus followers, and they know what to do with a wandering stranger on the road at the end of the day. "Come in. Eat with us."

It is in that invitation that they have their own resurrection encounter. It is in that invitation that they realize they have all that they will need for the tomorrows ahead.

Jesus is revealed to them, their tomorrow is realized, in the breaking of bread.

"When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him."

They encountered their tomorrow in what was familiar to them. There were no angels. They weren't peering into the empty tomb. They were headed back to what they knew best. Ready to tackle their new normal. And Jesus showed up. Walked alongside them. And then reminded them of their time together.

People of God, we so often look for the resurrection in the spectacular. We find ourselves in our own Holy Saturdays wondering what thing will make us realize the resurrection. What moment will reveal to us what we need for our tomorrows.

But, truth be told, that isn't how it happens.

The Risen Christ, the resurrection, is revealed to us in the things we know. For those disciples and for us it is in a meal that they so often shared. When Jesus did for them what he always did. He broke bread. That is where they find what they will need for the tomorrows ahead. And that is where we find it, too.

We find ourselves a part of a community of believers seeking its own resurrection encounter again and again and again. Wherever we are at in our own Holy Saturdays Christ comes along side us, walking with us, reminding us of the things we know, and the experiences we hold dear.

And we look back on our own Emmaus Road walks, and are reminded that he is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

**Hymn of the Day**

“Morning Has Broken”

#556

**Apostle's Creed**

**Prayers of Intercession**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Ever-present God, you make yourself known in the breaking of the bread and in the bonds of community. Reveal yourself to us in the faces of all we meet. Strengthened by your body and blood, let us boldly live out your good news. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

As we know you in the breaking of the bread, we know you in the grains of the field and the flowing waters. Care for the earth you lovingly create. Strengthen those who safeguard threatened land and water. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You are the authority to whom we dedicate our lives (*like Toyohiko Kagawa, whom we commemorate today*). Help us keep the needs of those most vulnerable at the forefront of our community. Move us to care for any who are disregarded or oppressed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Mothering God, you feed and comfort those who hunger. Open the hearts of those who hoard resources and lead them to share your abundance. We pray for anyone hungering for your comforting presence this day (*We pray especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Verna, Irene, Connie, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Sandy*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You pour out your love on those who are oppressed. Support and comfort anyone who is marginalized by gender or sexuality and those whose stories are not believed. Form this community to listen faithfully and speak honestly in our ministry together. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We remember with thanksgiving all your beloved saints (*especially*). As you have raised them to eternal life, abide with us in your promise of resurrection. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

### **Offertory Prayer**

Generous God,  
in this meal you offer your very self.  
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
In the breaking of this bread  
reveal to us the Risen One.  
In the pouring of this wine  
pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Words of Institution**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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 this day 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**

## **Communion**

### **Prayer**

Gracious God,  
in you we live and move and have our being.  
With your word and this meal of grace,  
you have nourished our life together.  
Strengthen us to show your love  
and serve the world in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

### **Blessing**

The God of all,  
who raised † Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song**            "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

#774

### **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord!  
**Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!**  
And all of Good Shepherd said...  
**AMEN!**

# April Financial Snapshot

Through April 15

Total Revenue **\$21,984**

2 more Sunday Offerings to Come

Total Expenses **\$23,468**

\$24,000 - \$27,000 projected expense

April Difference **\$1,484**

## The Opportunity:

With three Sundays to go in April the opportunity is in front of us to build up the cushion for the typical drop in summer giving.

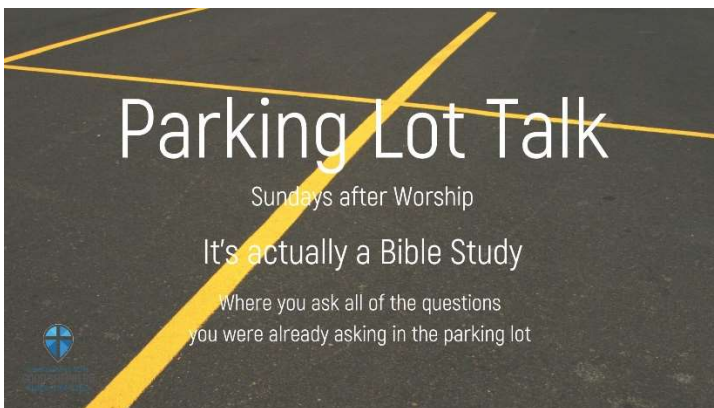
## Feeling Generous?

Consider a "Rebound Gift" to help recover from the extraordinarily high XCel bills of the first quarter of the year.



As sure as the sun rises on a new day, so too does tomorrow come.

Throughout Lent we asked ourselves the question: What do I need for tomorrow. It was the theme of our Easter message. And now, tomorrow is here. So, what do we do with it? Join us this Easter Season as we look to the Tomorrows in our own lives.



### Did you know?

Starting THIS SUNDAY we are adding a Sunday Morning Bible Study! We're calling it, "Parking Lot Talk." Not because the parking lot is anything worth talking about, but because we know that you leave church asking all sorts of questions in the parking lot.

Well, now we're giving you a space to ask them.

What did you hear in the Gospel text?

What surprised you?

What didn't you like?

And, the one we're most excited for:

**CAN YOU BELIEVE PASTOR SAID THAT?!?!?**

So, grab yourself a cup of coffee and a treat following worship and head into the Library for a wonderful discussion extending from our time in worship.