Third Sunday After Easter Sunday, April 26, 2020



PRELUDE

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea, you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word, you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

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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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

Word

FIRST READING

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. A reading from Acts.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, ³⁶"Therefore 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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

(Read Responsively)

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

²for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

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

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

¹²How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

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

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

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

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;

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

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

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

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

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

SECOND READING

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. A reading from 1 Peter.

¹⁷If 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 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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

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The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

¹³Now 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, ¹⁴ and 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, 20 and 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 gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

By now, I'm absolutely sure that just about all of you have personally experienced the shock of going to the grocery store these days!

I don't use a word like "shock" lightly. And I don't use it just to refer to the long lines you may have had to endure. There's also: the empty spaces on some of the shelves. The shortages of certain items. The things we used to take for granted being able to get whenever we needed them, now apparently in short supply: toilet paper, hand-sanitizer, ketchup. Canned and frozen vegetables have been pretty well picked over. Sometimes, all you can get is the store brand. Depending on when you go, sometimes bread can be hard to come by. I've learned that you've got to be flexible when it comes to your shopping list. You can put down everything that you think you're going to need and hope that you'll be able to get it, but sometimes, you may have to do without or substitute something else. It's taken all the fun out of grocery shopping.

Not that we haven't always had a complicated relationship with food. <u>Some</u> of us are able to eat anything we want, while others of us tend to worry about it. Is this good for me? Will it make me fat? Should I be eating this? What will others think of me if they see me eating this? I think of that last one every time I'm about to shovel another spoonful of Captain Crunch into my mouth.

But too much of that kind of thinking takes away the fun of eating. And it can also diminish our sense of the importance of food for something besides providing fuel for our bodies.

Every time this gospel comes around, I feel like I'm opening a treasure chest. Because there's so much good stuff in it that every single time you can pull something new out. So, on this particular go round, I'd like to focus with you on the food part of the story.

Wait a minute. Seriously? The food part of the story? Frankly, there's almost no "there" there. You can sum it up in one short phrase: they recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread. But bear with me anyway.

Two people, in the very midst of mourning and despair, encounter a stranger on the road. Even many, many years after Luke first wrote this story down, you can still hear the anguish, the disappointment in the voices of the two disciples. "We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel," but apparently he was not.

But in spite of their pain, it didn't even occur to them not to invite this stranger into their home to break bread and share a meal. And once they do that....

Then everything changes. The stranger suddenly becomes the host. And in words that sound an awful lot like the language of Holy Communion: bread is taken and blessed, broken and given, and suddenly it all starts to make sense. They know who is at the table with them. And then, just like that, he vanishes.

Of course, we all know that the pattern of Jesus sharing a meal with his disciples, both here and at the Last Supper, would go on to become one of the central and defining moments of Christian worship for hundreds and hundreds of years, celebrated millions of times throughout history in churches and communities and homes around the world. And every time that it is celebrated, we know that he is with us.

One of the hardest things about these times of distancing and quarantine and isolation is that we don't get to celebrate communion together. And, yeah, I know that there are ways that we can still receive communion, but you have to admit—it's not the same. And I really miss doing this with you in person—and I know that the other pastors do, too. And I know that we're all looking forward to the time when we'll be able to celebrate this sacrament together again.

But in addition to that, these things can speak to us where we are right now. Because by now, we've all been seeing the same faces around our tables for awhile now. Not that we don't love our families, but sometimes, we really can start to wear on each other a little bit. Or maybe you've been having to eat alone for awhile now, and it's starting to get monotonous and lonely.

And yet, may I remind you that the food we eat in both of these kinds of situations—and in other kinds of situations, too—can be worthwhile as something more than just providing the nutrition that our body needs to keep going. It can also—very much—be something that helps us to build and sustain our spirits and our relationships with one another. Every time we share a meal, we have an opportunity to share our lives. Every time we sit down to eat, there is potential for fellowship, for friendship and also for the revelation of God with us.

Years ago, in the pages of the Lutheran, Peter Marty offered a reflection on something that Victor Frankl had written, sharing experiences of his time in a Nazi concentration camp. Frankl shared a time when he felt he was absolutely at the end of his rope. He had lost everything, and even every value that he had had been taken away from him. But then someone gave him a piece of bread. Frankl writes, "I remember how a foreman secretly gave me a piece of bread which I knew he must have saved from his breakfast ration. It was far more than the small piece of bread which moved me to tears at the time. It was the human 'something' this man also gave to me—the word and the look which accompanied the gift."

Peter Marty commented: "Keep on the lookout for that human 'something' the next time you break bread with another person. Their words may offer more nutrients than the bread in your hand. Their look may open the eyes of your heart. It might be a small taste of the first Emmaus."

In the week ahead, I invite you to become attentive to those with whom you eat. Be more conscious of the faces, the voices, the hands of those who share this meal with you. Try to recognize something about them that is a gift to you. And if you have to eat alone, I invite you to pay attention to anyone who is involved in the delivery of your food. And beyond that, after you've eaten, to give someone you care about a call and soak up a little of that human 'something.'

In just that way, every table can have a bit of the Lord's table about it. May you, too, recognize him in the breaking of the bread. Amen.



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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- 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.
- 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. 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.**
- For our armed forces, police and first responders, and especially for all who are called professionally and vocationally to give of themselves to heal and care for us should we fall ill: our doctors and nurses and all who support them, that your blessing and help may be with them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- 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.**

PEACE

"Open Our Eyes, Lord "

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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.

"Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"



Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: MORGENLIED, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

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Announcements

Lorene Bruntzel has been busy making masks, and she has graciously provided a box of them for the church! The masks are available in the church's fellowship hall, on the same table as the hymnals. Stop by and pick some up at your leisure (you might want to call ahead if you don't have a key and let us know that you're coming). Alternately, if you don't want or are unable to go out, you can call the office and Pastor Jim would be happy to deliver some masks to your home. Just let us know! And a big thank you to Lorene for providing this wonderful service for our congregation! One final note: Lorene says to be sure and launder the masks before using.

Remember that, if you wish, you are invited to borrow a hymnal from church for use in your own times of devotion and worship. Hymnals are available on one of the tables near the entrance to the fellowship hall. Just stop by and sign one (or more than one) out! Alternately, you may call Pastor Jim and he will drop one off at your home. If you live in a facility where access may be restricted, please check and make sure that a hymnal may be dropped off for you.

Synod Remains active working from home

Although the synod staff has not been in the office since mid-March, we continue to support all of our congregations during this time. Here are just a few of the things we have been working on. . .

- Bishop Candea has been offering a mid-week reflection via Zoom. This will shift to <u>Facebook</u> in the coming weeks.
- Synod staff have been sharing virtual worship services for congregations that are unable to stream their own services online, or those that simply need a respite.
 - Services are available 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings on both our <u>Facebook page</u> and <u>YouTube</u>. Links are available at <u>www.css-elca.org/worship</u>.
 - "I am grateful to the synod for providing worship services throughout Holy Week and on Sundays. It allowed me to take some time off after Easter to catch my breath. I knew that the congregation would have a meaningful worship experience as well as an important time to connect with the synod." - Rev. Kristen Koch, Shepherd of the Hills, St. Ann, MO
- The synod expanded our Zoom account and made it available to our congregations. Since March 23, we have hosted 86 meetings. (*That's over 17 meetings per week!*) Only 27 of those were synod business. The other 59 ranged from worship services, confirmation classes, Bible studies, coffee with pastor, youth groups, and church staff meetings. We are pleased so many have taken advantage of this resource and have been creative as they continue to care for one another. You can request a zoom meeting by going to <u>www.css-elca.org/zoom</u>.

My Dear Church Family,

I continue to pray for you every day and hope that you are doing as well as you are able during these times. I want to let you know that our church's partnership with First and Trinity for shared worship is going to be coming to an end. This Sunday's worship will be the last one that we'll do together.

It's not that the pastors got mad at each other. But it probably did begin out of requests that I received that Our Savior's should begin to try to record our own worship service. I know that seeing the worship happening in our space with our musicians and with familiar faces and voices singing and reading has been a comfort for many of us. It certainly has been for me. And thanks especially to the skill and dedication of Javier Ahumada, the recording process has been smooth and easy.

Now that we're getting more steady at doing this, it seemed best to me and the other pastors that Our Savior's should continue to provide this ministry for our members. First and Trinity will continue to work together on the joint service, but we will not be joining them after this Sunday. I continue to be grateful to them for their partnership with us and hope that we will continue to be able to find ways to worship and minister together in

the future. I especially want to thank Pastor Jenny and Pastor Andrew for their leadership throughout this time. Having said that, if you watch this Sunday's shared worship, you'll see that I'm preaching. If you also watch our own service, you'll see that the same sermon is used at both services! Also, at the offering time, there is a performance from an acapella group that includes Lloyd and JoLana. It's absolutely beautiful and worth checking out.

And, of course, if you watched last Sunday's shared worship, you saw my son, Nicholas, playing his cello, accompanied by JoLana. The piece he played was something that he had prepared for competitions last year. You can find these services at:

https://www.facebook.com/1stlutherantopeka/

and https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4xPwmMxupJE-FiSH78M2HQ Pastor Jim

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We three pastors give thanks for the partnership enjoyed in our joint online worship services beginning March 29th. We pray you have enjoyed this partnership intended to provide support to one another and unity in Christ in the face of the challenges our world has experienced.

Following the conclusion of the April 26th worship service, this partnership ministry will continue with Trinity Lutheran and First Lutheran. Our Savior's will continue to record their own worship services available on their YouTube account.

We give thanks for the ministry of all of our congregations as we continue to work together to share the Gospel of our Risen Savior.

"We are God's people, working together." 1st Corinthians 3:9

Pastor Jim Peters, Our Savior's

Pastor Andrew Patty, Trinity

Pastor Jenny Jackson, First