



# Sunday, April 23, 2023

## Third Sunday of Easter

### 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.

### Gathering Hymn..... "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.

**Amen.**

If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our helper,

**We confess the many ways**

**We have failed to live as your disciples.**

**We have not finished what we began.**

**We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers.**

**We have been captivated by our possessions.**

**Lift our burdens, gracious God.**

**Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin.**

**Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us**

**in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

## **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], "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter 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. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

## **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. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through 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. Now 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. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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 [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 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?" 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. 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; and he vanished from their sight. 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?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" 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**

**Sermon Song..... "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"**

**CHORUS**



O - pen the eyes \_ of my heart, \_ Lord, \_

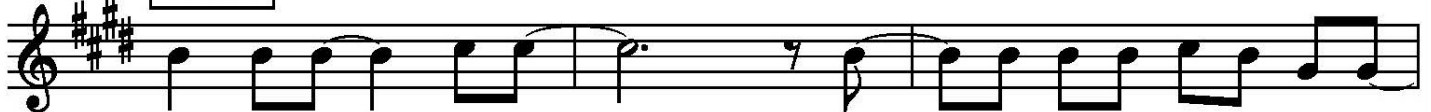


o - pen the eyes \_ of my heart; \_ I want to see You, \_



I want to see You. \_ To see You

**VERSE**



high and lift - ed up, \_ shin - ing in the light of Your glo -



- ry. \_ Pour out Your pow'r and love; \_ As we sing



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. \_ \_

**BRIDGE**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, \_\_\_ ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -

- ly; \_\_\_ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, \_\_\_ I want to

1. see You. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. see You. \_\_\_\_\_

repeat as desired

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## The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the Virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come 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 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

You are the authority to whom we dedicate our lives. 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

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 (*especially Mary Ann, Don, Bob, Barbara, Briden, Owen, Christi, Sue, Michael, Jenna, Joe, Dave, Joy, Frank, Bill, Lori, Vicki, Steve, Tyler, Norm, Penny, Michael, Ron, Sandy, Ken, Michael, Pete, Hadlee, Maryann, Shirley, Trisha, Bonnie, Henry, Del, Ruth, Sarah, Gloria, Michael, Sara, Sumi, Celine, Michael, Darcie, Peter, Gavin and People of Syria, Turkey and Ukraine*).

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving all your beloved saints (*especially Carl and Larry*). As you have raised them to eternal life, abide with us in your promise of resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

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.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **Offering**

### **Offering 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.**

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.



## **The 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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

## **Distribution**

*We will be using the intinction method for distribution. You will be handed bread and asked to dip the bread in the chalice. Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available. Please make your way forward by the center aisle, returning down the side. If mobility is a problem for you, please notify an usher and you will be served at your seat.*

## **Post 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 Hymn..... "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

### *Refrain*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTED, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**Thanks be to God.**