

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Artwork
by: Michael Torevell**

Third Sunday of Easter
April 23, 2023

Thought: 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 we have the risen Christ walking with us as we share in the Holy Supper...the breaking of bread, His body. The story of Emmaus should cause each of us to always seek the newness of Christ in our lives. For if the hope we have is open to the presence of Jesus, each step we take is never alone.

Prelude – Lillian Pinkston

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

Call to Worship

A: The risen Christ calls us to this place.

C: As Easter people we come to worship God.

A: The wounded and suffering Messiah calls us to this place.

C: As Easter people we come to worship God.

A: The God of new life calls us to this place.

C: As Easter people we come to worship God.

In the name of the risen Christ, let us worship, His Spirit is among us!

Gathering Hymn – “With High Delight Let Us Unite”
ELW #368

<https://youtu.be/fz5sW1TWvFw>
by St. Paul Lutheran

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Divine Joy, we confess that we are people motivated more by fear than love, and we don't know why. We know how to build walls and make rules and set boundaries. We know how to feel guilty. We are good at trying to make ourselves (and everyone else) conform to some ideal we have decided you want.

Time of silence and reflection

C: We confess we don't know what to do with your unconditional love. We don't know how to respond to your joyful surprises. We are afraid to stand under the flood of your miracle and wonder and goodness and healing.

P: Hold us in your comforting presence and bless us into courage so that we can join the dance at your side. Drench us in trust in the name of the one who trusted you even on the cross.

C: Amen.

The Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the wholly world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen.

Easter Hymn of Praise – “Where Charity and Love Prevail” ELW #359

<https://youtu.be/RTbnOall7oA>

by Chris Brunelle

Prayer of the Day

A: O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread.

C: 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.

The Word

First reading – Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Brethren, what shall we do?

^{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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

I will call on the name of the Lord

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

²**for 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.

⁴**Then 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?

¹³**I 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.

¹⁵**Precious 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.

¹⁷**I 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,

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

Hallelujah!

Second reading – 1 Peter 1:17-23

Through Christ you have confidence in God, who raised him from the dead, so that your faith and hope are in God.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Luke 24:13-35
<https://youtu.be/2oE7A-HHd14>

How is Jesus recognized among us as we walk the roadways of life?

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you O Lord.**

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, 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!”³⁵ 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.**

Children of God Message

<https://youtu.be/IO8WdwNxUck>

Homily – “I Can Only Imagine”

<https://youtu.be/2FgmGTeget4>

(Also by Mercy Me)

https://youtu.be/N_lrrq_opng

Hymn of the Day – “Bless Now, O God, the Journey” ELW #326

<https://youtu.be/xTkFNew4t0M>

by Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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 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

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

A brief silence.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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 Music – “Jesus, Still Lead On”

ELW #624

<https://youtu.be/y1165x6qFK8>

by William Storm

Offertory Prayer

A: By your Son's presence among us you have raised us up, O God –

C: raised us to new life...holy life...joyful life.

A: And so we raise our hearts to you,

C: along with these gifts.

A: Accept them as signs of our love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Consecration

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.

Distribution

Communion Music – Lillian Pinkston

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: As once you made yourself known to the Emmaus disciples in the breaking of the bread,

C: so you have made yourself known to us in this place...in this meal.

A: As we have experienced your presence here, fill us with the contagious joy that the disciples felt.

C: Lead us to spread the good news: “The Lord has risen indeed!”

A: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction – from Numbers 6

Sending Hymn – “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”
ELW #551

https://youtu.be/moMv_IbDec
by Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

Dismissal

A: Recognize Christ as you walk in the Word to serve others.

C: Christ be our guide and light. Amen!

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston

I can only imagine What it will be like
When I walk by Your side I can only imagine
What my eyes would see When Your face is before me
I can only imagine

Surrounded by Your glory What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You Jesus Or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in Your presence Or to my knees, will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine I can only imagine I can only imagine
When that day comes And I find myself Standing in the Son
I can only imagine When all I will do Is forever, forever worship You
I can only imagine, I can only imagine
Surrounded by Your glory What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for you Jesus or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in your presence or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine, I can only imagine
I can only imagine When all I will do
Is forever, forever worship You
I can only imagine



Who is Walking With You?

