



April 23, 2023

**The Third Sunday of Easter
Service of Holy Communion**

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+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME**PRELUDE****THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

**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.

*Water may be poured into the font as the thanksgiving
continues.*

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 Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table ACS 977

- 1 Look who gathers at Christ's table!
Hear the stories that they bring.
Some are weeping; some are laughing;
some have songs they want to sing.
Others ask why they're invited,
burdened by the wrong they've done.
Christ insists they all are welcome.
There is room for ev'ryone.

- 2 Clouds of light surround the table;
ancient followers appear,
saints confessing how they wrestled
with their guilt, their doubt and fear.
Peter tells of his denying
Christ was ever in his sight;
Paul relates his fruitless efforts
to obliterate the light.

- 3 Their sad stories are repeated
in a thousand different ways,
but they share one thing in common:
they all end in thanks and praise
for the host who has invited
north and south and east and west
to converge around this table,
where all life is fed and blest.

- 4 Bring your joy and bring your sadness,
and prepare to be surprised
by the host whose hands are wounded,
who will open wide your eyes
when he blesses bread and breaks it—
truth and manna from above!—
and then passes wine that wakens
in your heart the taste of love.

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 Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord ELW 875
Sing 2 times

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: CAMEROON traditional, collected by Elaine Hanson
Music: CAMEROON PRAISE, Cameroon processional, arr. Ralph M. Johnson
Text and music © 1994 Carlssonsg. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrators.

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+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDRENS' BIBLE STORY TIME

Children may leave worship with the teachers for Bible Story Time. They will return during the Hymn of the Day.

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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19

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

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ACS Pg. 33

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first three phrases of the acclamation: "Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia." The second staff is a simplified accompaniment consisting of a single bass line with a few notes and rests, marked with a repeat sign. The text "Repeat alleluia" is written above the second staff.

All Will Sing

Our hearts | burn within us* while you open to | us the scriptures.

Repeat Acclamation

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.

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!" 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

HYMN OF THE DAY **Day of Arising** **ELW 374**

- 1 Day of arising,
 Christ on the roadway,
 unknown companion walks with his own.
 When they invite him,
 as fades the first day,
 and bread is broken, Christ is made known.

- 2 When we are walking,
 doubtful and dreading,
 blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
 yet Christ walks with us,
 ever awaiting
 our invitation: Stay, do not part.

- 3 Lo, I am with you,
 Jesus has spoken.
 This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign:
 when the church gathers,

when bread is broken,
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.

- 4 Christ, our companion,
hope for the journey,
bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision,
set all hearts burning
that all creation with you may rise.

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

... 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.**

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

CHOIR ANTHEM *As We Gather at Your Table*

Text by C.P. Daw; music by K. Lee Scott

- 1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.
- 2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,

bringing peace where there is strife.
 Give us, Christ, your great compassion
 to forgive as you forgave;
 may we still behold your image
 in the world you died to save.

- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
 other guests to share that feast
 where triumphant Love will welcome
 those who had been last and least.
 There no more will envy blind us
 nor will pride our peace destroy,
 as we join with saints and angels
 to repeat the sounding joy.

OFFERTORY HYMN God Extends an Invitation ELW 486

God extends an invitation
 to the table of creation,
 where there's wine and light and bread.
 Here we gather in thanksgiving
 and we offer all our living.
 Here the feast of life is spread;
 here the feast of life is spread.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:
 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses
of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ACS Pg. 36



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God most mighty,
 O God most merciful,
 O God our rock and our salvation,
 hear us as we praise,
 call us to your table,
 grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void,
 you formed order and beauty.
 When Abraham and Sarah were barren,
 you sent them a child;

When the Israelites were enslaved,
 you led them to freedom.
 Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,
 and the psalmists cried out for healing,
 and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
 He was born among the poor,
 he lived under oppression,
 he wept over the city.
 With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**
 Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**
 Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.
Amen.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
 O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
 O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
 O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
 O God our strength and our song,
 you show us a vision of a tree of life
 with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
 Grant us such life,
 the life of the Father to the Son,

the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the altar railing receive the Meal today. Please fill in along the railing from the pulpit to lectern sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive the Meal. The Meal will be served continuously. After you have received the Meal and after a quiet prayer of thanksgiving you may return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available as an alternative. Please ask. White grape juice, in the center ring of each serving tray, is available as an alternative to the wine. Praise God for the life giving presence of the crucified-risen Christ in the bread and wine of this holy meal!

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN “*Be Known To Us in the Breaking of the Bread...*” ACS pg. 40

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

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.

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* ELW 674

- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
 reaching out with a shout of joy:
 bread is broken, the wine is poured,
 Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
 pass the Word around: loaves abound!
 Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
 pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 2 Christ is able to make us one,
 at the table he sets the tone,
 teaching people to live to bless,
 love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*
- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
 bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
 gives us love to tell, bread to share:
 God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, April 23, 2023

The Rev. Les Swenson, Deacon Gwynne Hopko

Assistant Minister: Bob Herold

Lector: Terry Gustafson

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Kyle Galvin, Noah Galvin

Ushers: Tina Beaudoin, Gerald Beaudoin, Carol Emond

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

From Sundays and Seasons.com. **Copyright 2023** Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26763.

Permission to reprint and stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-724528. All rights reserved.

Change of Heart

The people who hear Peter's testimony and preaching are cut to the heart. The writer of 1 Peter instructs believers to love deeply from the heart. The disciples who encounter the risen Christ notice afterward that their hearts were "burning" within them as Jesus reveals the scriptures and then himself to them in the breaking of the bread. Whether a call to repentance, hope, recognition, or love, people are deeply affected by encounters with the one raised from death to become followers of Jesus' way. They not only turn from their sin and doubt but literally change direction, going back from Emmaus to Jerusalem with renewed courage, faith, and hope. These heart-changing encounters with Jesus fulfill a promise from God for the whole community, from those who have lived a long life to those who are children.