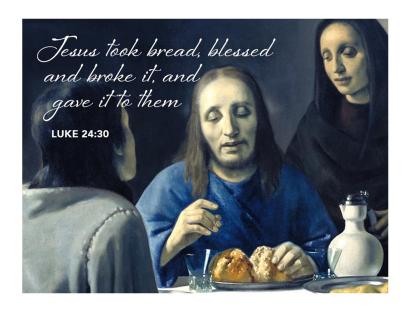
Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday April 26, 2020



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

408 North Sixth Street, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601 (814) 943~3972 | Pastor Hess (814) 695~8346 E-mail office@trinityaltoona.com



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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.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Every Member ·····	·····Ministers
Elizabeth Hess ·····	···· Pastor
Ralph Grove ·····	·····Organist
Cindy Finnegan ·····	Minister of Music
-	ctors
	6:30 PM
	8:15 AM
	10:45 AM
Acc	olytes
	6:30 PM
	8:15 AM
	10:45 AM
Us	hers
	6:30 PM
	8:15 AM
	10:45 AM

A sincere thank you to everyone that has continued to give throughout this pandemic. The church is averaging \$3,600 weekly in donations thanks to your generosity.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRE-WORSHIP MEDITATION

PASTOR: Let us read together Mark 12:28-31 (the Jesus Rule)

ALL: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your

mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.

PASTOR: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

PRELUDE

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God.

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and w alk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the F Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN

*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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray....

C 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 LESSON 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.

L The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

PSALM PSALM

I will call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

O LORD, truly I am your servant;

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

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD. R I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people, in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you. O Jerusalem. Hallelujah! R

SECOND LESSON 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.

- L The word of the Lord
- C Thanks be to God

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.

- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the Twenty-fourth Chapter
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

- P The Gospel of the Lord
- C Praise to you, O Lord

FOR THE CHILDREN

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

*APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven.

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

*PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Each of you shall bring such a gift as he can in proportion to the blessing which the Lord your God has given you" Deuteronomy 16:17

OFFERING

THE PRAYERS

A Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

- A Lord in your mercy
- C hear our prayers

The prayers conclude:

P Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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

*BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace



*CLOSING HYMN

*DISMISSAL

P: Mark 12:28-31

C Love God, Love others.

*POSTLUDE

 ${\bf *Congregation\ Stands}$



PRAYER LIST

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Ted Baird
Tyler Bennett
Tina Chestney
Church HealthTeam
Church Council
Don Corl
Gary Crownover
Sondra Deffibaugh
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Debbie Gracey
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Steve Wood

ARE YOU THE ONLY STRANGER?

The two had been shuffling town to town, living in their mockery of a station wagon, a rolling address for a time uncertain, telling improbable stories when they showed up, last in line, at the church food pantry. Then, as if dazed by a vision, the couple's progress back to their bald-tire shelter halted. They stood still, looking sad. "We have an empty bedroom," said the volunteer, a jolt that hinted that her words had outmaneuvered her judgment. Whether a plea or a confession, she continued, "Please come; stay with us." So, they did. The night passed, and several more like it. The hard-luck Chevy sat vacated in the driveway while in the house, stories unraveled into blessings. Then one morning when the coffee was brewed and bread browned into toast, they were simply gone, the two of them and the Chevy. On the kitchen table a note read, "Sutch [sic] a blessing that was here will stay with us for a long time or ever."

How many times while walking the seven eternal miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus, discussing with each other the things that had taken place, did those two disciples of Jesus glance at his face or flinch at the sound of his voice, seeing only a stranger with them? It remains the misty curiosity of this late-in-the-day Easter story. How could they not know who he was, walking with them? What blind irony hangs from their one question: "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know . . . ?"

Then—why?—they invited this stranger in. "Stay with us." Perhaps the real surprise is not those disciples' blindness but our bemusement that they did not recognize Jesus when he came to them. For how often have we, too, failed to see Jesus in the stranger?



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