

AUGUSTANA

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

EASTER 3 April 26, 2020

WOV Service of Word & Prayer

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

GATHERING SONG “With High Delight Let Us Unite” # 368

With high delight let us unite
in songs of great jubilation.
You pure in heart, all bear your part,
sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free forever, he
is risen and send to all earth's ends
good news to save every nation.

Let praises ring: give thanks, and bring
to Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed by word and deed
to every land, every nation.
So shall his love give us above,
from misery and death set free,
all joy and full consolation.

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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

- What are you afraid of?
- My household and the safe bug catcher for spiders.
- Other fears ? ...
- Fear behind closed doors. The disciples Us? Are we staying home because we are afraid?
- In one of our Bible readings today there is a phrase, “cut to the heart” ... It means that the people heard something that caused them to change their thinking.

- I have changed my thinking: even if we may have begun our time of staying at home because we were afraid of getting sick. We don't stay home because we are afraid. We stay home because of love. Not romantic love ... caring love ... because we care for others we stay home to protect them. That cuts to the heart of things: we stay home not because of fear, but because of love.

SCRIPTURE SONG

Refrain: Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe
Just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.
Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name? /refrain

For you alone are the Holy One.
All nations will draw near and worship before you,
For your just and holy works have been revealed. /refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Lord of the gathering feast, you walk with us on the shadowed road: burn our hearts with Scripture's open flame; unveil our darkened eyes as bread is torn and shared, and from the broken fragments bless a people for yourself; through Jesus Christ, the host of the world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!
Word of life Jesus Christ, all praise to you!
Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!
Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them 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.

MEDITATION

The road to Emmaus is quite famous in artwork. There are many depictions of Jesus walking along with the two companions on the road: paintings and colouring pages as well. Three people intent on their conversation as they walked down the road.

This week when the pastors met with Bishop Sid by Zoom Pastor Munye from Good Shepherd reminded us that there are actually two journeys in our Gospel reading. It's not just the road to Emmaus, it is also the road back to Jerusalem. That made me think: two journeys ... two very different journeys with something sacred in between.

The first was the walk to Emmaus –...this walk was just dripping with emotion: the two walkers were so sad and confused. What had happened in Jerusalem just didn't make sense to them. They were so befuddled that when a stranger came up to them asking them "what's up?" They just stopped [dead stop] . . . astounded that this stranger didn't know what had happened in Jerusalem.

But they carried on and the stranger walked with them teaching them along the way. Now we know that the stranger walking with them was Jesus, but they didn't know. (Actually this is one of the reasons why I always read the Gospel from the middle of the church: it reminds us that Jesus is in our midst.)

When they arrived at their destination in the evening they invited this stranger to stay with them because it is dangerous to travel in the dark and hospitality is important. As the stranger – who we know is Jesus – blesses and breaks the bread for their meal – all of a sudden – they recognize him and then he is gone. "Did not our hearts burn within us while he opened the scripture to us on the road!"

Up they got and – even though it is dangerous to travel in the dark – they rushed back to Jerusalem. Their second journey of the day. The first journey slow and sad, the second fast and euphoric. But I believe it is the interlude between the two journeys that is so important to us. The interlude that made the second journey of return possible.

Between the two journeys Jesus was made known in the breaking of the bread. We understand this in light of the sacrament of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus is with us as we gather together to eat bread and drink wine. But during this time of worshiping together-apart we are not able to celebrate in this way. But the breaking of bread is also sacred in another way. The breaking of bread is also about communion in a different way: to be community ... a caring and sharing community. it is not the sacrament, but it is still sacred.

Although our covid 19 journey – like the two on the road to Emmaus -- might begin with sadness and confusion it is the sacredness of caring and sharing that is represented by the breaking of the bread that speeds our journey on in joy.

For the time being we are not able to gather to share the sacrament of bread and wine, but we are the bread that is shared. We have a long road ahead of us before we can gather within the walls of our church building, but on that journey we are called to be a community – to be the bread that is shared. And Jesus walks with us on our journey. **Our hearts burn within us as we learn to be what we have received: the body of Christ.**

SONG “Day of Arising” # 374

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.

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.

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.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

- 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.

- Prayer of Confession

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another. We pray: **Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, know and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GOD'S RESPONSE

Hear then God's response: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each short prayer will end with the words "Lord in your mercy." You can make the prayer your own by responding "**hear our prayer.**"

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the church, the human family, and all the world.

We give thanks for the communion of faith that goes beyond the walls of our church building, for the love of God that is embodied in our risen savior Jesus and for all gifts of healing and forgiveness, especially we thank you for those who use their gifts to help us through this pandemic: medical staff, caregivers, cleaners, grocery workers, truckers, and all those who work in essential services. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the gift of relationship with others. During this time of physical distancing help us find ways to support and care for one another. Thank you for those whose technical abilities help us maintain our sense of community. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We give thanks for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction. Let us not be distracted by our current crisis from the work that is needed to keep our world healthy. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for those who govern during challenging times and for all people in countries ravaged by strife, warfare or illness. For all who are most vulnerable during this pandemic:

refugees, the Iqbal and Alhamad/Wahid families; people living in poverty or crowded conditions, the elderly, those who already struggle with health issues. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for families challenged to live and learn in new ways. Grant patience and humor to parents and children. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for all who grieve: the Stauffer family as they grieve the loss of Mark's mom Muriel, for Paul Weatherington and his family on the death of his father Ron and for the many who mourn those who were murdered in Nova Scotia. Give comfort and strength for the days ahead and, when the time is right, remind all who grieve of the hope we have in the resurrection. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for all who call upon your healing name. Walk with all who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and those in need of healing in body and spirit especially: Jennie, Logan, William, Marcus, Brody, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Earl, Janet, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Deanna, Carol, Wilma, Mary, Georgina, and all who we name a loud or in the silence of our hearts Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need as we journey on, grant us, O God. We ask this for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and Father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. AMEN.

SENDING SONG

“We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus”

451

We are baptized in Christ Jesus,
we are baptized in his death;
that as Christ is raised victorious,
we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united
in a dreadful death like his,
we will all be reunited,
for he lives.

In the water and the witness,
in the breaking of the bread,
in the waiting arms of Jesus
who is risen from the dead,
God has made anew beginning
from the ashes of our past;
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.

Go in Peace to love and serve our risen Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!