

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
Easter 3 - April 26, 2020

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #143 - "He's Risen, He's Risen"**

**He's risen, he's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;  
He opened death's prison, the incarnate Word.  
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song  
And earth, sea, and mountain the praises prolong.**

**The foe was triumphant when on Calvary  
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.  
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,  
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.**

**But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,  
And death, hell, and Satan he vanquished, his foes.  
The conquering Lord lifts his banner on high;  
He lives, yes, he lives, and will nevermore die.**

**Oh, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;  
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.  
For all our transgressions, his blood does atone;  
Redeemed and forgiven, we now are his own.**

**Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;  
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.  
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain,  
Who now sits in glory and ever shall reign.**

**Confession of Sins:**

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**First Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 36-47**

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Gentlemen, brothers, what should we do?” Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.” He testified solemnly with many other words and was appealing to them, saying, “Escape from this crooked generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added. They continued to hold firmly to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. Awe came over every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed. Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (EHV)

**Psalm 67:**

**Refrain: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.**

**May God be gracious to us and bless us  
And make his face shine upon us;**

**May your ways be known on earth,  
Your salvation among all nations.**

**May the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
For you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.**

**Refrain: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.**

**Then the land will yield its harvest,  
And God, our God, will bless us.**

**God will bless us,  
And all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
And to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Refrain: Let the people praise you, O God. Let all the people praise you.**

**Second Lesson: 1 Peter 1:17-21**

If you call on the Father who judges impartially, according to the work of each person, conduct yourselves during the time of your pilgrimage in reverence, because you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that pass away, such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish or spot. He was chosen before the foundation of the world but revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:**

Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Our hearts were burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us.  
Alleluia.

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

Now, on that same day, two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about all of these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing this, Jesus himself approached and began to walk along with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” Saddened, they stopped. One of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” “What things?” he asked them. They replied, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be condemned to death. And they crucified him. But we were hoping that he was going to redeem Israel. Not only that, but besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Also some women of our group amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning. When they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb. They found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” He said to them, “How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village where they were going, he acted as if he were going to travel farther. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, since it is almost evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he reclined at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and began giving it to them. Suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was speaking to us along the road and while he was explaining the Scriptures to us?” They got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and those who were with them assembled together. They were saying, “The Lord really has been raised! He has appeared to Simon.” They themselves described what had happened along the road, and how they recognized him when he broke the bread. (EHV)

### **The Apostles’ Creed:**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn #382 - *“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”***

**My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare to make no other claim  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**His oath, his covenant and blood  
Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in him be found,  
Clothed in his righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before his throne.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**The Sermon: Luke 24:13-35**  
**“The Long Walk Of Faith”**

There are lots of people here in Western Wisconsin who like to **walk**, and it has become even **more** prominent since the COVID-19 pandemic started. Doctors and other medical personnel say that walking is **good** for you - in fact, it's one of the **best** exercises you can **do** to stay physically **healthy**. In order to help keep ourselves **spiritually** healthy, we walked with **Jesus** throughout the six weeks of **Lent**. In our text for this Sunday, we have two people who went for a **long** walk - not because it was the **healthy** thing to do, but just because that's how people got **around** in those days. Luke tells us that their destination - **Emmaus** - was about **seven miles** from Jerusalem. That **seems** to be a **contradiction**, because there doesn't appear to **be** a town called Emmaus which is 7 miles from Jerusalem. **Resolving** the apparent contradiction in **this** case is **easy**. It may be that archaeologists simply haven't **found** this town yet, and that's why we don't **know** about it. On the other hand, perhaps a more **plausible** explanation is the fact that there **is** a town called **Emmaus** about 3 1/2 miles from Jerusalem. Therefore, Luke may be talking about the distance for a **round trip**. Either way, Luke's words stand **correct**, just as he stated them. At any rate, as these men were **walking**, they met **Jesus** - and in the course of the ensuing conversation, their long **physical** walk turned into something much **greater** - it became a part of **The Long Walk Of Faith** - a walk which takes us through **confusion** and **hopelessness**, into **fellowship** and **eternal joy**.

Our text begins, “*Now, on that same day, two of **them** were going to a village named **Emmaus**, about **seven miles** from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about all of these things that had **happened**.*” Who **were** these people? Our text says it was two of **them**, but two of **whom**? Luke is the only writer who includes this account on the road to **Emmaus**, and he records it immediately after the women had told Peter, John, and the disciples who were **with** them, that an angel had told them that Jesus had **risen** from the dead. It was two of these **disciples** - people who were **not** included among Jesus' chosen **12** disciples, but who were nevertheless His **followers** - two of **these** were on their way **home** to Emmaus. They had **heard** from the women that Jesus had **risen**, but they had not **believed** it.

It quickly becomes clear how **confused** and **hopeless** these people had become when **Jesus Himself** comes up and walks along **with** them - although for one reason or another they were unable to **recognize** Him. At any rate, when Jesus asks them what they've been **talking** about our text tells us, “*Saddened, they*

*stopped ... ‘The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth ... We were **hoping** that he was going to redeem Israel.’*” That’s what they **had** hoped - but **now** their hopes were **dashed**. Perhaps they had expected some good news right **away**, **immediately** following Jesus’ crucifixion - or possibly on the **next** day - but as they said, *“It is now the **third day** since these things happened.”* They considered their quest for the Messiah to be **over**. It was time to stop **waiting** and **hoping**, and to make the long walk **home**.

These two people were focusing far too much on their own **human** reason. What they **needed** to do was to focus on **God’s Word**, and on the **sure promises** which are **recorded** there. So, that’s exactly what Jesus **led** them to do, and that’s where their journey took a turn for the **better**. Their long walk home became an opportunity for **Bible Study**. Again in our text we are told, *“He said to them, ‘How **foolish** you are and slow of heart to **believe** all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ **have** to suffer these things and to enter his **glory**?’ Then beginning with **Moses** and all the **prophets**, he **explained** to them what was said in **all** the Scriptures concerning himself.”*

These disciples were receiving an **attitude adjustment** from their Savior. No doubt Jesus began with the first Book of Moses - **Genesis** - and the very **first** promise of a Savior to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden - the one where God said to Satan, *“I will put **hostility** between you and the woman, and between your seed and **her seed**. He will **crush your head**, and you will crush his heel.”* Certainly Jesus would **also** have led them through the promises which God had made to **Abraham** and the **other** patriarchs, and on into the numerous prophecies found in the **Psalms**, as well as those which were revealed to **prophets** like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. There are **hundreds** of prophecies from which to **choose** - prophecies which would lead these disciples out of their **confusion** and **hopelessness**, and into a state of confident **trust** - but not **yet**.

The **next** step in this **Long Walk Of Faith** involved a **continuing** study of God’s Word. Our text tells us, *“As they approached the village where they were going, he acted as if he were going to travel **farther**. But they urged him **strongly**, saying, ‘**Stay** with us, since it is almost **evening**, and the day is almost over.’ So he went in to **stay** with them.”* Although it was getting **dark**, and the road would certainly be **dangerous**, especially for someone travelling **alone**, their **main** reason for urging Him to stay with them was that He had piqued their **interest** through His thorough knowledge of **God’s Word**. Isn’t it interesting how this Stranger who had at first **imposed** Himself on their rather **private** conversation, had now become a **Teacher** and **Friend** from whom they wanted to learn much **more**! They were

not about to let this dynamic **Stranger** get away. He would **have** to stay for **supper**.

The **fellowship** which **followed** is really quite **similar** to some of the fellowship which we **still** love to experience. I find it rather interesting that even in **Jesus'** day, people who had gathered together around **God's Word**, were **also** drawn together to spend some time partaking of **food** - kind of like our coffee and **snacks** following our worship services, or our pot-luck **dinners** - or even our Easter **breakfast** - things which we hope to get **back** to again very **soon**. Feeding the **body** fits together very **naturally** with feeding the **soul**.

It was in this breaking of **bread** that the two disciples finally **recognized** that this **Stranger** was no stranger at **all** - it was Jesus **Himself!** There are a couple of interpretations which are offered to explain why **that action** triggered their recognition. The **first** is that as Jesus broke the bread, it was the first time these disciples were able to clearly see Jesus' **hands**. And when they saw the fresh **nail prints**, it immediately gave away His identity. However a **second** interpretation is **equally** as believable. I'm sure that **all** of you have had the experience of seeing someone who looked **familiar** to you, but you couldn't quite come up with a **name** for them. It may have been because they were in an unfamiliar location, or perhaps they weren't with their spouse and children, or perhaps they were dressed in formal attire instead of casually. This **could** be what had happened to the **disciples**. This man **looked** somewhat **familiar**, but since they weren't accustomed to seeing Jesus travel by **Himself**, and since they were only too aware that Jesus had **died** on the cross, they weren't expecting to **see Him** on their way to Emmaus. But when Jesus broke **bread** with them - something He had done with them on **numerous** occasions - it was the final **key** which unlocked His **identity** for them.

Anyway, as soon as they figured it out, Jesus was **gone**. Our text says, *"Suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. Then he vanished from their sight."* It's likely that **we** would think this would have confused the disciples even **more**. But it **didn't**. Instead, they were filled with new **strength** and **zeal**. We're told, *"They got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem."* They made the 3 1/2 or 7 mile journey **again**, in order to tell the **other** disciples that the story which the women had brought earlier was **true** - Jesus really **had** risen from the dead, and they had **seen** Him with their own eyes. Jesus had **restored** to them the **joy** of their salvation.

What a turnaround for these disciples, as they traveled **The Long Walk Of Faith**. But friends, it's the same walk which **we** make on a daily basis. The walk of

**coming** to faith and **becoming** a Christian is not long at **all**. **That** happened in an **instant**, at the moment of our **baptism**. But once we **have** our faith, **living** in it becomes a **long** walk - a **life-long** walk. Our **Long Walk Of Faith** also leads us **through** confusion and hopelessness, and **into** fellowship and eternal joy. When our spirits are **sagging** and our hope has been **destroyed** - when our patience is being severely **tried** and our goals appear to be **unattainable** - what a **blessing** it is to know that we are on **The Long Walk Of Faith** with thousands of **other** like-minded believers - people who not only understand that Jesus suffered and **died** to pay for all our sins, but that He has also **risen** from the dead, and lives and rules **eternally**. What a **joy** it is to be able to share our **sorrows** and **woes** with them. And very **soon**, I hope to receive the **comfort** and **encouragement** of being able to gather here at Trinity **every week** with like-minded believers, so we can grow together in learning **more** about our precious Savior. That of course **includes** being able to gather here at the **Lord's Table**, as we celebrate **close communion** - enjoying the **intimate unity** we have - and regularly receiving the assurance that **all** our sins have been taken away through the blood of Jesus. Dear friends, you and I are on the **same path** - and what is **most important**, **Jesus** is on that path **with** us. We are walking with **Jesus** throughout **all** the days of our **lives**. Therefore, even in our **darkest** moments, Jesus will continue to **reveal** Himself to us through His **Word** and **Sacrament**, and He will **restore** to **us** the **joy** of our salvation. The **Walk Of Faith** may be a **Long Walk**, but it is the **only** walk which leads to our heavenly home. Let's thank God that we will once again be **privileged** to do our walking **together**.

### **Prayers:**

O Lord, in these last days Your righteous acts have been revealed to **us**, whom You have made the **stewards** of the Word of **Truth**, the message of **Salvation**. Alas, Lord, we are **unprofitable** stewards. We ask You to **forgive** us for our sluggishness to hear and learn Your Word, and for our lack of **diligence** in the use of the Means of **Grace**. Be **merciful** to us, and **pardon** us for the squandering of our **time**, for the misapplication of our **talents**, and for the hoarding of our **treasures**. Forgive us for our **callousness** toward the plight of **lost souls**, for hiding away the riches of Your saving **love**, and for our slowness to **proclaim** Your salvation to every creature.

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son to **bleed** and **die** for all our sins. **Wash away** all our iniquity through His blood, and **cleans**e us from our sin. Create in us a **pure** heart, O God, and renew a **steadfast** spirit within us. Restore to us the **joy** of Your salvation, and grant us a **willing** spirit to sustain us. Strengthen us in our

inner being with **power** through Your Holy Spirit. **Root** us and **establish** us in Your love.

Holy Spirit, today we recognize **Your** special work among us as **individuals**, and as a **congregation**. We thank You for calling us to be **believers**, for **strengthening** our faith, and for giving many opportunities to **worship** You, even though we aren't able to gather **together** at this time. We thank You for Your **Word** which shows us the way to **heaven**, and we ask You to make that precious Word **more** and **more** a guide for our **everyday** lives. Use our congregation to be a **carrier** of Your Word, so that **through** us, You can continue to work in many **others** in our world. Produce in our lives the **fruits of faith**: love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. Produce those gifts in such **abundance** that it will be **evident** to others that You have made **Your home** in our **hearts**, and in our **congregation**.

Lord Jesus, enable us to be **bold, strong, courageous, and fearless** disciples, who are always **eager** to spread the Gospel. Amen.

**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.**

**Hymn # 153 - "Alleluia! Jesus lives!"**

**Alleluia! Jesus lives!  
He is now the living one;  
From the gloomy house of death  
Forth the conqueror has gone,  
Bright forerunner to the skies  
Of his people, yet to rise.**

**Jesus lives! Let all rejoice;  
Praise him, ransomed ones of earth.  
Praise him in a nobler song,  
Cherubim of heav'nly birth.  
Praise the Victor-King, whose sway  
Sin and death and hell obey.**

**Jesus lives! Why do you weep?  
Why that sad and frequent sigh?  
He who died our Brother here  
Lives our Brother still on high,  
Lives forever to bestow  
Blessings on his Church below.**

**Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,  
Life is yours eternally;  
Joined to him, your living head,  
Where he is, you too shall be;  
You with him at his right hand  
Victor over death shall stand.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**The Blessing:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Hymn #346 - "In You is Gladness"**

**In you is gladness amid all sadness,  
Jesus, Sunshine of my heart.  
By you are given the gifts of heaven;  
You the true Redeemer are.  
Our souls are waking; our bonds are breaking.**

**Who trusts you surely has built securely  
And stands forever. Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining to see your shining,  
Dying or living to you are clinging  
Now and forever. Alleluia!**

**If he is ours, we fear no powers,  
Not of earth or sin or death.  
He sees and blesses in worst distresses;  
He can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story tell of his glory  
With hearts and voices; all heav'n rejoices  
In him forever. Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness, win over sadness,  
Love him and praise him and still shall raise him  
Glad hymns forever. Alleluia!**