
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Call to Worship

One: As the sun set over the village of Emmaus, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to his friends.

All: Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

One: Today we gather around the word of God -- hoping, trusting to behold the risen Lord.

All: May our eyes be open to recognize Jesus in our midst.

Hymn #233 *The Day of Resurrection!*

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.
Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.
Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
the round world keep high triumph and all that is there-in.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

Prayer of Confession

Living Lord, by the power of your Spirit, you are present among us. Yet, like the first disciples, we fail to see you in our midst. We do not realize you are walking beside us, for we are consumed with our own thoughts and worries. We do not notice you in everyday lives for we are distracted by daily labors and consumed by our own concerns. We do not recognize you on our streets or at our tables, for our expectations are too limited to imagine all the ways you dwell among us. Open our eyes to perceive you in our midst, so that - seeing you clearly - we may follow you faithfully.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe and live the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Luke 24:13-35

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,

16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.

18 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?"

19 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,

20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

21 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.

22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,

23 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.

24 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.”

25 Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.

29 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.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

32 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?”

33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

34 They 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.

Homily “Seeing Jesus”

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

Affirmation of Faith *From A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Anthem *If My People* from Legacy of Faith

Joseph M. Martin

Marilyn Wilkins, soprano

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray.
If my people will seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven.
Then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sins.
I will heal their land.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *Fugue in E Flat Major (BWV 552)*

J. S. Bach

Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Health concerns: Louis McCaleb; Jimmy Gilchrest; Luis Alvarez; Donna Morrison; Bill McPhail; Jane Christopher; Dave Askine; everyone struggling with Covid-19 diagnosis or symptoms.

Loss of loved one: Jamie Jamison family

Celebrations: Lavinia Brown's new great-grandson, Jesse Thomas.