

THE SEASON OF EASTER

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The 3rd Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Walking with the Master

Gathering—Today we hear the story of the Resurrected Christ walking with his friends on the road to Emmaus. In the midst of confusion and doubt, Love walks beside us. In the breaking of bread, Love is revealed to us. Let us worship Christ who is with us in all things.

A Time of Prayer— Holy One, we are often confused by the events in our world. Come and walk with us. Open our hearts to hear your truth. Plant the seed of new life within us. In trust of your loving presence, we pray.~

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV)

13 Now on that same day two of them 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.

Meditation

Breaking Bread

Hymn

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven, 289

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—What can we give back to God for all the good things God has done for us? We can never repay this gift, but we can bring our gifts for God’s work in the world.~

April Benevolence—Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries (CUE)

Doxology

We Give Thanks—God of love, source of all goodness, you hear our cries and you answer. With grateful hearts, we bring our gifts to you. We bring our offerings, as a gift of thanksgiving for your presence in our lives. We are your servants, and we offer ourselves with joy. Amen.~

Hymn

Come, Christians Join to Sing, 87

Benediction—As you walk the paths of life, know that Jesus is with you, blessing you with his presence.~ As you break bread and gather at the table, know that Jesus is beside you, pouring out the love you long for. Go in peace, knowing the Risen Christ is forever with you.

Postlude

Sing Alleluia