



## St. John Lutheran Church

Freedom Twp. • Napoleon, Ohio

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, April 26, 2020

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## *Finding Jesus*

View the video file on our  
'SJL Services' YouTube Channel  
Search "sjlc napoleon ohio"



### As We Gather

When we gather in God's house – and hopefully that will be soon again – we are surrounded by colors, windows, candles, words, music, and beauty, all of which are intended to reveal something to us about our risen and living Lord Jesus! But as we learn from the experience of the Emmaus disciples, there are two places chiefly where Jesus has hidden Himself for us to find, namely in the Word of God and in the Breaking of the Bread in Holy Communion. It was by these means that the eyes of the Emmaus disciples were opened and they saw Jesus. In worship, we also seek to see Him as He chooses to be known to us.

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### Prelude and Ringing of the Tower Bell

#### 465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

- 1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
In praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 2 Eternal is the gift He brings,  
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”  
Now still He comes to give us life  
And by His presence stills all strife.  
Christ has triumphed! He is living!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
Set heart and will on things above  
That we conquer through Your triumph;  
Grant grace sufficient for life’s day  
That by our lives we truly say:  
“Christ has triumphed! He is living!”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- △ 4 Adoring praises now we bring  
And with the heav’nly blessed sing:  
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”  
Be to the Father and our Lord,  
To Spirit blest, most holy God,  
All the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

*Rom 6:9; Matt 28:7; HeB 2:7; Psa 8:6, adapted*

- P** Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;
- C** death no longer has dominion over Him.
- P** Christ has risen from the dead. Alleluia!
- C** God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,
- P** He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
- C** He has put all things under His feet. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Salutation & Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** *Let us pray.*  
O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

<sup>14</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

<sup>36</sup>Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>And Peter said to 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. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup>And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

<sup>41</sup>So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalmody

Psalm 116:1–14

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

<sup>2</sup>Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup>The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

<sup>4</sup>Then I called on the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

<sup>7</sup>Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

<sup>8</sup>For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

<sup>9</sup>I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

<sup>10</sup>I believed, even when I spoke, “I am greatly afflicted”;

<sup>11</sup>I said in my alarm, “All mankind are liars.”

<sup>12</sup>**What shall I render to the LORD  
for all his benefits to me?**

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD,**

<sup>14</sup>**I will pay my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.**

## Epistle

**1 Peter 1:17–25**

<sup>17</sup>If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup>knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup>He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, <sup>21</sup>who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup>Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, <sup>23</sup>since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; <sup>24</sup>for

“All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the  
flower of grass.

The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
<sup>25</sup>but the word of the Lord  
remains forever.”

And this word is the good news  
that was preached to you.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

**Luke 24:13–35**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup>That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, “What is this

conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a

prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,<sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.<sup>21</sup> 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 happened.

<sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning,<sup>23</sup> and 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.<sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”

<sup>25</sup>And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things

concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther,<sup>29</sup> but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them.<sup>30</sup> When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

<sup>32</sup>They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

<sup>33</sup>And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,<sup>34</sup> saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”

<sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Hymn of the Day - Introduction

**P** Through the centuries, there have been many writers of hymns whose way with words have inspired the faithful. The next hymn was written by Dr. Herman Stuempfle, a Lutheran Seminary professor who penned dozens of texts that are sung in churches today. The first line takes us to a very specific time and place and puts us in the company of those Easter evening walkers who were blessed by having the risen Lord walk along with them. We are Easter people, certain that our Lord is walking with us—not walking in sorrow but in the joy of the resurrection.

## 476 Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow

- 1 Who are you who walk in sorrow  
Down Emmaus' barren road,  
Hearts distraught and hope defeated,  
Bent beneath grief's crushing load?  
Nameless mourners, we will join you,  
We who also mourn our dead;  
We have stood by graves unyielding,  
Eaten death's bare, bitter bread.
  
- 2 Who is this who joins our journey,  
Walking with us stride by stride?  
Unknown Stranger, can You fathom  
Depths of grief for one who died?  
Then the wonder! When we told You  
How our dreams to dust have turned,  
Then You opened wide the Scriptures  
Till our hearts within us burned.
  
- 3 Who are You? Our hearts are opened  
In the breaking of the bread—  
Christ the victim, now the victor  
Living, risen from the dead!  
Great companion on our journey,  
Still surprise us with Your grace!  
Make each day a new Emmaus;  
On our hearts Your image trace!
  
- 4 Who are we who travel with You  
On our way through life to death?  
Women, men, the young, the aging,  
Wakened by the Spirit's breath!  
At the font You claim and name us,  
Born of water and the Word;  
At the table still You feed us,  
Host us as our risen Lord!
  
- 5 "Alleluia! Alleluia!"  
Is the Easter hymn we sing!  
Take our life, our joy, our worship  
As the gift of love we bring.  
You have formed us all one people  
Called from ev'ry land and race.  
Make the Church Your servant body,  
Sent to share Your healing grace!



Jesus breaks bread with the Emmaus disciples.

### Song “Open Our Eyes, Lord”

Open our eyes, Lord,  
We want to see Jesus,  
To reach out and touch Him,  
And say that we love Him.

Open our ears, Lord,  
Teach us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord,  
We want to see Jesus. *(repeat)*

### The Second Article

#### *Redemption*

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

#### *What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

## Offering

If you wish to give an offering during this time of suspended public worship, there are three ways to give:

- Mail your offering to the church
- Drop off your offering outside the church office, Tuesdays 9 a.m. to noon
- Give online at SJL.ORG

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Each prayer concludes:*

**P** Lord in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

## 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.

## Closing Collect

**P** *Let us pray.* O God, whose blessed Son made Himself known to His disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold Him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**C** 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.

**C** Amen.



## 548 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

- 1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, victorious!  
Thanks to Thee, O Lord of Life!  
Death hath now no power o'er us,  
Thou hast conquered in the strife.  
Thanks because Thou didst arise  
And hast opened paradise!  
None can fully sing the glory  
Of the resurrection story.
  
- 2 Thou hast died for my transgression,  
All my sins on Thee were laid;  
Thou hast won for me salvation,  
On the cross my debt was paid.  
From the grave I shall arise  
And shall meet Thee in the skies.  
Death itself is transitory;  
I shall lift my head in glory.
  
- 3 For the joy Thine advent gave me,  
For Thy holy, precious Word;  
For Thy Baptism, which doth save me,  
For Thy blest Communion board;  
For Thy death, the bitter scorn,  
For Thy resurrection morn,  
Lord, I thank Thee and extol Thee,  
And in heav'n I shall behold Thee.

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✠ **Soli Deo Gloria** ✠  
To God Alone Be Glory

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