

## **April 26 2020 Service for EASTER III**

**Good morning – welcome to worship today on the Third Sunday of the Easter!**

I hope you are able to gather everyone in your household together this morning. Perhaps around your kitchen or dining room table. If you are not alone - assign parts of this beforehand. If you don't have a Bible you can google the scripture readings and print them out too. Adjust the font size for your use if you print this doc. out. This Liturgy is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book and the prayers this morning are from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**You will need a candle to light this morning before this time together.**

Perhaps print out copies of this for everyone present. Shut off all the distractions in your home. Sit in the quiet for a bit – take some deep breaths

### **GATHERING TOGETHER**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

**Hymn LBW 363 Christ is Alive – Let Christians Sing**

**The Prayer of the Day.**

Let us pray.

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **THE WORD**

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm: 116:1-4, 1 Peter 1:17-23**

**Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Reflection based on the Road to Emmaus**

Many people are finding that a daily walk during these days of isolation is helping them to clear their minds, reduce their mental and physical stress and get out of the house for awhile. Often families are out together or two neighbors walk together – using the social

distance rules. We are fortunate to be living in a “rural” area where there is lots of space to be outside. Not so within our larger cities like our neighboring city of Ottawa. Walking provides many opportunities. One can meditate; pray; not think at all; enjoy nature, or discuss the days current events with others. It would be fascinating to be a little bird and listen into the conversations that people have on the way to nowhere in particular.

This morning my thoughts are influenced by the news in Nova Scotia of the recent and senseless 23 deaths that occurred over the past weekend. Perhaps the victims’ families and close friends, who are walking together now, are talking like the disciples “with each other about all these things that have happened”(Luke 24:vs14) They too are held together in anguish.

Cleopas and the other disciple walking to Emmaus (7 miles from Jerusalem) were also held together in anguish discussing the tragedy that they have encountered with Jesus crucifixion, death and resurrection. Surely, many of us have felt blindsided in moments of distress and wondered if God was with us! Retired Presbyterian Pastor, Rev. Cynthia Jarvis asks – *“What should we do when we reach our wits end, when what we thought was worth our lives has left us washed up, emotionally, financially, physically and spiritually?”*<sup>1</sup> These disciples display a helplessness and hopelessness that today many people at times have also felt. During these days of seclusion, how do we comfort those who have sorrow over the death of a loved one?

A stranger - Jesus - comes along to join the conversation between Cleopas and the other disciple. He adds a different take to the sequence of events that have gone on in Jerusalem. The stranger re-tells them a story of the events over the last days. Once the disciples arrive at Emmaus, they only recognize the risen Lord when He blesses the bread – breaks it and shares it with them.

Through His Spirit the Risen One stays with us in our locked homes, is present at our family meals, and blesses us in our worst distress. I pray that each and every one of us are able to recognize Him when He appears to us. In the future we will again lift the cup of salvation together - as we have in the past. When Jesus hosts a meal we will all share in it together. One loaf will be broken, one cup shared. God breaks into our world with simple gifts; a candle, companions on the journey, a bowl of water, a piece of bread, a sip of wine. In these good gifts we too recognize Christ the Risen one. **Amen**

**Hymn LBW 543 Praise to the Lord the Almighty**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Separated in our residences but united by God’s promises of restoration, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, and all who are in need, echoing today’s psalm with the response, **give ear to us.**

*A brief silence.*

Come to your people, so burdened by heartache. Give us faith to know your loving presence among us. Open the scriptures to us, and nourish us with the bread of your word. Direct our clergy and church leaders in their novel and difficult tasks. Bind into one all denominations around the globe in hope for the renewal of all things, and uphold the work of the World Council of Churches. O God our merciful Savior, **give ear to us.**

Come to the earth. Bless all the natural world. Renew landscapes, cleanse the waters, and protect the animals. Save your people especially at this time from destructive storms and floods. Keep viruses in check, for the sake of your beloved humans. O God our benevolent Gardener, **give ear to us.**

Come to the nations. Preserve all peoples from war and violence. Guide the leaders of nations, toward wise decisions in struggling against the virus and in reviving the economy. Teach all peoples how to share limited resources with those in greater need. Guide the work of the United Nations during this unprecedented situation. O God our mighty Peacemaker, **give ear to us.**

Come to all who suffer from the virus. Comfort the mourners, heal the sick, sustain medical workers. Empower those researchers who are seeking a vaccine. Be with the families of the victims of the mass shootings in Nova Scotia. Stay with them, and accompany all those who are isolated or afraid. Give to those with chronic disease their necessary medical care. Especially we pray for those we name here before you (*especially*): O God our compassionate Healer, **give ear to us.**

As at Emmaus you joined the meal of the disciples, so come also to our tables. Uphold farmers, ranchers, migrant workers, and all who produce, package and market our food. Guard the health of those who work at grocery stores. Bless the efforts of local food banks. Enable us to feed the children who have relied on food given out at school. Show us how to feed the people living in refugee camps and nations experiencing famine and drought. O God our generous Provider, **give ear to us.**

Walk with us on our roadways, whether marked with sorrow or joy, and receive our petitions, both sad lament or fervent praise. O God our beloved Companion, **give ear to us.**

Accept our praises for those who have died in the faith, including those who stricken with the virus, the medical workers who died healing others. Accompany us now, as you did them, until at the end of all things we feast at your table with all the saints in glory. O God, the Mystery of Life, **give ear to us.**

With bold confidence in your providence, O holy and gracious God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our saving Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The 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.**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless us now and forever.

**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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Prayers ELCA worship blog.

Citation -quote 1 Cynthia A. Jarvis,p.421 Feasting on the Word