

*Sunday, April 26, 2020*

*Salem@Home*

*Thank you for joining us as we gather together as the family of God. Please center your heart and mind on worship. Imagine you are sitting in your pew. Your friends are across the aisle. While we may not physically be in the same place, we are all together today in worship.*

*Before you begin, please light a candle, place a bowl of water, flowers if available, and your Caring Cross in front of you.*



*Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.*

# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Followers of Jesus, by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin

**Alleluia!**

By his rising we are free from the fear of death

**Alleluia!**

By his love we are made new in the living and enduring word of God.

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

## RETURN TO OUR BAPTISM

We begin our worship with water because we use water to baptize, and this is where our life in God's promise begins. We ask God to be present with us here in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*(Remember your baptism by dipping your finger in your water bowl and making the sign of the cross on your forehead as you repeat the following words.)*

I am God's Child. I am loved. I am forgiven. I have a place in God's kingdom. Walk wet in this promise of life. **Amen**

## GREETING

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## FIRST READING ~ Acts 2:14a, 36-41

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd] <sup>36</sup>“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

### **GOSPEL READING ~ Luke 24:13-35**

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came 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 are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>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?" <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over 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 took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>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?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told

what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**ELCA BOOK OF FAITH DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS:**

*(For those who have other people in your household, you may discuss these as a family. If you live alone, call a friend and discuss the questions with them!)*

- 1. What scares, confuses, or challenges me in this text? What do I have questions about?**
- 2. What delights me in this text? What is my favorite part, and why?**
- 3. What stories or memories does this text stir up in me? How does this story connect to my life?**
- 4. What is God up to in this text? What is God calling me to do or to be because of this message?**

**CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS**

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.**

Come to the church, 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 *especially Pastor Erica*, 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, our president, our governors, and our legislators 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. Stay with us, and accompany all those who are isolated or afraid. Give to those with prior ailments and chronic disease their necessary medical care. Especially we pray for those we name here before you: *( Duane, Mary, Darleen and all others on our hearts and minds today).*

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, and this week Catherine of Siena, the apostles Philip and James, and Bishop Athanasius, each of whom served you in their own time and place. 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.**

#### **OFFERING**

*We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time. Checks may be mailed to the church. All mail is currently being held at the Albert Lea Post Office and will be picked up 1 – 2 times per week. Your offerings will remain secure.*

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,  
our ordinary gifts seem small  
for such a celebration,  
but you make of them an abundance,  
just as you do with our lives.

Feed us again at this table  
for service in your name,  
in the strength of the risen Christ.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## *Sending*

### **BLESSING**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead  
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,  
and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

