

*St. Matthew's New Life
Lutheran Church
Worshiping at Dearing Chapel
12355 Fort Caroline Road*

April 26, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter

Introduction to the day

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Those present may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

P: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

C: By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

P: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

C: Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

One Bread, One Body

ELW Hymn #496

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. *Refrain*
- 2 Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*
- 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. *Refrain*

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

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GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

FEAST AT YOUR TABLE

PRAISE BAND

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.

WORD

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

L: A reading from Acts

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

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸Peter 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. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

¹I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,

²**for the LORD has given | ear to me
whenever- | er I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:**

“O LORD, I pray you, | save my life.”

¹²How shall I re- | pay the LORD
for all the good things God has | done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup | of salvation
and call on the name | of the LORD.**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God’s people.

¹⁵**Precious in your | sight, O LORD,
is the death | of your servants.**

¹⁶O LORD, truly I | am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and call upon the name | of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God’s people,

¹⁹**in the courts of | the LORD’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah!**

L: A reading from 1 Peter

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

Glory to you, O Lord.

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

¹³Now 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, 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.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Day of Arising

ELW HYMN 374

- 1 Day of arising,
Christ on the roadway,
unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him,
as fades the first day,
and bread is broken, Christ is made known.

- 2 When we are walking,
doubtful and dreading,
blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
yet Christ walks with us,
ever awaiting
our invitation: Stay, do not part.

- 4 Christ, our companion,
hope for the journey,
bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision,
set all hearts burning
that all creation with you may rise.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

A: We confess our common faith in the words of the Nicene 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 OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Brief silence

For those whose hearts are fervent with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the diverse natural world: for jungles, prairies, forests, valleys, mountains, and for all the wild and endangered animals who call these spaces home, that they are nurtured and protected. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the faith forming ministries of this church. For those preparing for baptism, first communion, confirmation, and membership (*especially*). For those who participate in Sunday school and adult education; guide and inspire learners of every age and ability. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Create in our hearts a yearning to rest in your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give us thankful hearts for those who have died, even as we look forward to the hope of new life with you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING *(We thank everyone who has sent their gifts and tithes to the church during this time of physical distancing when we can't meet together. If you are able gifts can be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 350119, Jacksonville, Florida 32235.)*

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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

SENDING SONG

Morning Has Broken

ELW Hymn 556

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Would you like to add to our weekly announcements???? Please contact Teresa Koufonikos at (904) 874-2837, or by email at tgkoufonikos@yahoo.com.

Pray for your fellow church members. Do God's will and share the Joy of Christ.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact any member of your church council. We will do our best to get you answers asap.

If you are having a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Ellen Cross at 904-318-5436

Prayer Concerns:

Please keep Michelle, daughter and the family of Robert Knack, in your daily prayers as they mourn the passing of Robert Knack.

The Beall family has asked for continued prayers of healing for Linda.

Please pray for the family of Vivienne Ather as they mourn the passing of Vivienne's aunt. May they feel God's comfort during this difficult time.

Please pray for the family of Jose Luna, as they mourn the passing of his father. May God comfort them and give them strength during this time.

Please pray for our doctors, our nurses, first responders, grocery store workers and all of our brothers and sisters in Christ that continue to work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Koufonikos family has asked for prayers for Gus' daughter Sarah as she works in a hospital in Cambridge, Ma.

Know of someone in the hospital? Please notify Teresa Koufonikos at the church office at 904-744-5333 or her direct number 904-874-2837, when members are ill or hospitalized. You can also email the church at stmaelca@bellsouth.net.

Lindsay Weeks (Shirley Farrell)
Tara Berk (Shirley Farrell)

ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING HOME MEMBERS

Lorraine Ivey (St. Augustine)

OUR MEMBERS

Michelle Pearson Terry McFeeters
Jo Ann McFeeters Tillie Herbert
Ava Hester Jessamyn Sanders
Dr. Duane Bork Munira Ather
Vivienne Ather Sharon Adkins
Hugh Kiser

OUR RELATIVES

Michael Koufonikos (Teresa Koufonikos)
Thomas DeYoung (Teresa Koufonikos)
Dorothy and Pat Ruitter (Teresa Koufonikos)
Theresa Castle (Theresa Rehm)
Peyton Kendall (Theresa Rehm)
Lee Moore (Vickie Moore)
Charlie Scheil (Mark and Carolyn Keister)
Emerson (Lucy Blahy)
Sonia (Vivienne Ather)
Kasey Strong (Shirley Farrell)

OUR FRIENDS

Masey Manke (Tonya LaBarbara)
Duane (Bob Tano)
Marie Colegate (Richard and Lina Bell)
Wes Johnson (The Tano Family)
Sandy Rogers (Karen Farrell)
Anne Johnson and the family of
Joleen Cummings (Teresa Koufonikos)

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Chris Ather-U.S. Steven Baker-Iraq
Lyndsey Buckle-U.S. Hickory Burns-U.S.
Tim Connor-U.S. Kevin Kahl-U.S.
Mica Langley-U.S. . Liam Steinke-U.S.
Linda Kramer-U.S. Joshua Lambert-U.S.
Sarah Schaet-U.S.
Jeremiah Nelson-Deployed
Nathan Christel-Deployed
Tabitha Lambert-Germany

