

## **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### **COLLECT**

O God,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread.  
Open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in his redeeming work,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

ACTS 2:14a, 36-41; PSALM 116:1-3, 10-17; 1 PETER 1:17-23; LUKE 24:13-35

You may use your own Bible, or click on this link:  
<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2020-04-26>

### **SERMON**

It's late on the day of the resurrection.

Two disciples are returning home to their village, Emmaus. They are talking about events of the week; the crucifixion; reports of a vision of angels, reports of resurrection. They are confused and bewildered. They seem to have been expecting Jesus to have redeemed Israel; but that didn't happen. What had Jesus said: that he would go to Jerusalem, that he would rise from the dead? They don't seem to have heard that, or remembered that.

But whatever they had expected, things are now very different from what they envisioned two weeks ago. It's all so confusing now. In their bewilderment the last thing they expected was to have Jesus walking with them. They expected nothing, They needed some other expectation.

We know there are times when we've walked that road to Emmaus: times when our lives have been confused, we've been disappointed, hopes have been dashed, when many questions clamour for solution.

Sometimes it's because we've expected too much.

We enjoy it when times are exciting, spectacular; why can't it be good all the time? We like the Spiritual highs – Mountaintop experiences. We like the glory of Easter, Christmas, the great spectacles of religion; and are content to wait out the ordinary times. We expect God always to look after us, even to the point we are right and everybody else is wrong.

Or sometimes we expect too little. In disappointment – even grief – when one has worked hard for something, and it hasn't worked out. Ruined before completion.

Sometimes we can be so caught up with our grief, our interpretation of how things were supposed to happen, that we can't see the continued possibilities. We can't see how the "disaster" is a new opportunity. We can't see how the "disaster" is God doing a new thing. We can't believe it. We can't believe that Jesus would rise from the dead.

And in the midst of these kinds of realities, I don't see Jesus drawing near – my eyes are kept from recognising him – some have seen a vision, a vision of angels, but I don't know what they're talking about. All I see is threat to what I have known as reliable, a threat to what my expectations are.

Then what happens? Jesus, unrecognised, does draw near.

First, Jesus opened up the scriptures – and when the challenges of new realities are based on scripture, listening is probably a good thing to do; secondly, there is the invitation to hospitality: "Stay with us, it's late." and then, Jesus broke bread – begins with a reflection on scripture, and ends by breaking bread. And that results in an experience of the risen Christ; it results in recognising the risen Christ. And all that I hope sounds a familiar pattern. It is what we normally do week by week; we gather together, as a community, to hear the Word, in scripture, in reflection, affirmation of faith, in prayer; and then there is the invitation to hospitality, bread is taken, blessing is said, bread is broken, and it is shared; wine is taken, blessing is said, and it is shared. And all the stuff that happens in between our weekly gathering: our misplaced expectations; our confusion and bewilderment; stories we hear, but don't have the courage to really believe; our disappointments, our grief, our cynicism; we bring it all.

And we break bread together, and drink wine.

And all this is an opportunity we have for our eyes opened and to experience the presence of the risen Christ.

Now I realize to say all this at this present time feels a bit like rubbing salt into the wound. Because we know we can't do that. COVID 19 dictates that we can't come together as a community, and all the tactile and physical ways we express community cannot happen, and indeed should not happen. We cannot shake hands, we cannot hug. We cannot break bread together, we cannot drink wine together. The circumstances demand that we must fast from coming together, fast from making Eucharist.

And being mindful that COVID 19 also means that for some people, they cannot do the things they need to do to continue living in a healthy and whole way. Just because the doors of our Church buildings are locked does not mean the Church is out of business. We are Church; and it is as we reach out to others, especially to those in any kind of need, that we live being Church.

We may have to fast from making Eucharist, but we can still feast on the Word. And our modern technologies are helping us in the worship resources that are available. And with our focus on the Word and its unfolding, something happens.

Jesus, unrecognised, draws near. And when we feel our hearts burning within us, we recognise Jesus as our companion on the journey.

## **Intercessions and Thanksgivings**

### **Litany for Easter**

In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying,  
“Hear us, Lord of glory!”

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

In the Anglican Communion we pray today for Pray for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East; for The Most Revd Michael Lewis –Archbishop, Jerusalem & the Middle East & Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf

In our Diocese we pray for and offer thanks for The Rt. Rev. John H. Chapman and his ministry in this Diocese.

St. Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa The Reverend Julian Campbell;

Parish of Pakenham St. Mark's, Pakenham St. John's, Antrim St. George's, Waba The Reverend Jim McCorrison, Priest-in-Charge

For the Chaplain of the Ottawa Fire Department, The Reverend Canon John Bridges

We lift up those who have invited our prayers, especially Zachariah, Marjorie, Cheryl, Fr. David, Roy, Jeanette; those who are experiencing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, especially praying for all who have died in this Pandemic; and those who are on each of our hearts and minds this morning.

“Merciful God, in the stillness of our souls we listen for your voice to know again that you are God.

Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you are near us, keeping watch over your own.

Rekindle our faith, and light the lamp of hope within our hearts.

Then take us by the hand into each day that lies ahead, for where you lead we can confidently go with Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**