



St Stephen

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor



Encouraging and
strengthening faith in Jesus,
and sharing the joy of God's love.

April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

10:15am

Liturgy of the Word

Introduction to the Third Sunday of Easter

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.

WELCOME

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept, then the presiding minister leads the prayer.

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.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly sits.



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

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

A reading from Acts.

^{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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

A reading from Peter.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

After a brief silence, the assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: John 24:13-35

P: † The Holy Gospel, according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer

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

A: 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.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: O God our _____,

C: give ear to us.

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

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.:

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.

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**



Sending

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.

May Christ's rising lift your spirits and gladden your hearts.

C: **Amen.**

P: All those who believe in Christ will never perish.

May you pass with Christ from death to life.

C: **Amen.**

P: Christ has gone to prepare a place for us.

May his resurrection bring you all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Cesar Vidaud & Melkis, Dolores Lauterberg, Jake Waldecki, Sera Butz, Harry Ambrose, George Arce, Laurel Blake, Dorothy Johnson, James Loggins, Don Schutt, Normagene Richardson, Mildred Grady, Carol Chmelynski, Jimmy Fennelli, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Katie Paff, Bob Reinhold, and Shelley Amato.

Prayers for Friends of the Parish

✠ Donna & Adam, Jason, Melissa, Jonathan, Carlyne, James, Camille, Valerie, Carol, Greg, and Annie ✠ Deepa, Ravi, Julia, Iris, our family, our friends, loved ones, for all the residents in senior communities who are vulnerable to coronavirus and are locked down in their homes, those affected with coronavirus and those caring for them.

In a facility or homebound:

Barbara Kaptain – The Atrium Assistant Living at Boca Raton.

1080 NW 15TH Room 215 Boca Raton, Fl. 33486

Evelyn Braun – 6152 Verde Trail Room 106 Boca Raton, Fl. 33433

Jim Loggins - John Knox Village – Woodlands 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Bud Danker - 3020 N. Ridge Road Apartment W-316 Ellicott City, MD 21043.

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