

Suggested Opening Song: To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King, #206

Today, on the third Sunday of Easter, we hear the story of the two disciples who encounter the risen Lord as they walk the road to Emmaus. They listen to this stranger as he opens the scriptures to them, explaining that the Christ had to suffer and die before rising in glory. After inviting him into their home, they recognize him when he breaks bread with them at their table. Every Sunday we live out this experience. We listen to the risen Lord speak to us through God's word. Then we receive him in the Eucharist. May we, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, invite him into our midst.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 22

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*bow as we say*) and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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. I 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 adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 8

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Opening Prayer:

May your people exult forever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the resurrection.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 194

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2:14, 22-33

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: “You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it. For David says of him: *I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted; my flesh, too, will dwell in hope, because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.*

“My brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day. But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption. God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured him forth, as you see and hear.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

R/. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

R/. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge; I say to the LORD, “My Lord are you.”

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot. **R/.**

I bless the LORD who counsels me; even in the night my heart exhorts me.

I set the LORD ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. **R/.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence; because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption. **R/.**

You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever. **R/.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

1 Peter 1:17-21

Beloved: If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb.

He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.Reflection on the Word:

- The transformation of the two disciples as they walk to Emmaus with the Lord is dramatic, even though they are not conscious who this is. When the Lord encounters them, they are disheartened and preoccupied. No doubt they are grieving the loss of their mentor. They seem sad and depressed, looking downcast. They may have been angry and frustrated as well, for they were debating about all that happened as they conversed. They are so self-absorbed that they don't seem to notice a stranger until he asks what's going on. But by the end of their conversation, they enjoy the company of this teacher so much that they insist he stay with them. Their spirits have been lifted. No longer are they returning home disconsolate and alone; this stranger—whom they still don't recognize—has turned their attention back outward again. The risen Lord has awakened their hospitable, caring, and unselfish natures.
- Note that Cleopas and his companion are not part of the Eleven. They were not present at the Last Supper, which would have been but a few days earlier. They were not present when Jesus "took bread, said the blessing, broke it" (Luke 22:19, 24:30) and told the apostles that this was his body. Yet, this is the moment when "their eyes were opened and they recognized him" (24:31). The breaking of bread triggered their recognition even though they had not personally experienced the event it suggested.
- Transformed and hearts now aflame, the two disciples immediately return to Jerusalem to share the incredible news. Remember, it was late and they had planned to retire for the night. But they cannot hold their encounter with the risen Lord inside for even a moment. Overflowing with Easter joy, they return the way they had come,

but joyous, not downcast. Hearts burning, not mourning. Eager to find others, not to isolate alone. They are impassioned to spread the truly Good News.

Question of the Week

What am I impassioned about? Can I see the Easter miracle, the continuing presence of the risen Lord, and the promise of the Resurrection bringing me as much joy?

Prayer of the Faithful:

In God we find our refuge. Therefore, we direct our needs and the needs of all God's children around the world to the Father above.

- For the Church, that we may proclaim the new life we know through the risen Lord in such a way that it burns in the hearts of those we touch, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For world leaders, that peace may reign in their hearts, leading them to free the world from the weapons of war and terror, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That we may collectively address the environmental and ecological challenges that face our common home, so that it may be enjoyed and treasured by generations to come, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those who have lost hope, find life meaningless, or are grieving, that they may respond to Christ's promise of new life, offered through us with compassion and love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those welcomed into the Church on the first evening of the Easter Season, that they may find fellowship and support in this community and be encouraged to share their talents and gifts, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, your Son walked the road to Emmaus, setting his disciples' hearts on fire, and leading them to proclaim the Risen Lord. Inflame in our hearts the desire to share the good news of the Resurrection in what we say and what we do. Grant this and all our prayers, through the same Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 54

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave 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.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray, that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us,  protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested Closing Song: Take and Eat, #225