

We are an Easter people so we are a joyful people. Jesus has conquered death, broken open our tombs of sin and despair, and redeemed us in our humanity. Animated by the Holy Spirit, we live in the light and life of Christ, spreading that light and life on to those around us. Let our hearts be glad and tongues exult as we lift our voices in praise to God.

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

Profession of Faith: Page

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 for ever.

Blessed be God for ever.

Penitential Rite:

My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world: Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the living word of God: Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the source of everlasting life: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Opening Prayer:

May your people exult for ever, 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, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading Page

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 Page

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 Page

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 Page

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:

In the days following his resurrection, it was a challenge to recognize the risen Lord. Cleopas and his companion did not recognize him even though they walked with him for miles mere hours after being told that he was alive again. In each of the first two readings Peter testifies to Jesus’ identity and resurrection, reminding them that they all witnessed this. You can almost hear him pleading, “Can’t you see?” But plainly it is not obvious; otherwise there would be no need for Peter to make his argument. Often it is only in hindsight, when we reflect and say, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way?” that we realize the divine presence in our lives (Luke 24:32).

The journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus was short in terms of distance, but lengthy in terms of discovery. Only after walking with him for miles, talking and listening and inviting him to stay, did recognition come like a bolt from the blue when he broke bread with them. Our life journeys may seem lengthy, and recognition of the Lord’s presence may come slowly and with difficulty, then all at once.

In the days following Jesus’ crucifixion and death the disciples were miserable. They left Jerusalem dispirited and defeated, mourning the one they hoped “would be the one to redeem Israel” (Luke 24:21). All appeared lost. It was then, while nursing their grief, that they extended hospitality to this stranger. When they finally realized who he was, their outlook changed immediately. Though it was already evening, they returned at once to Jerusalem to tell the apostles the wonderful news. In the time of their greatest need they were blessed with the Lord’s presence.

Question - When have I acutely realized the Lord’s presence? In the Eucharist? In listening to scripture? When we gather in his name? In my day-to-day life?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Like David, we abide in confidence in the Lord for we trust that God will never abandon us. Therefore, we address God with our needs and the needs of all.

- For the Church, that like the early disciples we may testify sincerely to Christ’s power over sin and death and his promise of salvation to all humanity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those who hold public office, that they may empathize with those whom they serve, especially those who are the least well-off and most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For farmers and farmworkers, who plant the seeds and tend the seedlings that will grow and bear fruit that will nourish and delight us, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all those who have been or will be baptized during this Easter season, that they may be outward signs of the faith of their families, friends, and communities, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all of us gathered here today, that we may strive to recognize Jesus in those we encounter on our journeys, 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.**

God of mercy and love, help us to spread your mercy and love to all those we meet. Hear the prayers we make to you today and grant them, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: Page

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.

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 bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**
Go in the peace of Christ! **Thanks be to God.**