

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020 10:30 a.m.



***He is risen,
so we shall arise!***

Order of Worship

Opening Hymn

*Christ,
Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

LBW 265

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, and only Light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

Text: Charles Wesley; **Music:** Charles F. Gounod

Introduction

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.

Prayer of the Day

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of the 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.**

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

(Turn page)

3

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, *What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?* They stood still, looking sad. Then 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?* He 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and 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. Some 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. Then he said to them, Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory? Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They 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? That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon! Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Proclamation

Pastor: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen, so we shall arise!

Sermon

Pr. Kristine

Good morning and welcome to worship! Our service, “The Hour of Power at the Citadel of Praise,” is not being broadcast from the NRC Chapel. Nor is it being broadcast from The Pool of Siloam or The Pool of Bethesda.

Though the NRC Chapel is ready to be used as an infirmary—a kind of Pool of Siloam (or Pool of Bethesda)—where those diagnosed with COVID-19 can be cared for lovingly by NRC nursing staff.

Our entire service is being published solely on this NRC website. But just for this week. Next week we hope to broadcast from the sanctuary of a local church. When all is arranged, we’ll let you know the details. So do check us out next Sunday, May 3, 2020, on Channel 105, at 10:30 AM.

Last Sunday, we heard about faith and doubt and the importance of prayer. We were reminded that Jesus took compassion on “Thomas the Doubter” and provided what Thomas needed in order to believe.

We learned that Jesus understood and understands our need for signs—and even wonders!—to encourage faith.

Jesus' provision to inspire faith in the heart of Thomas was to show Thomas his, Jesus' own, wounds. Signs of Jesus' own vulnerability. His own humanity. His suffering, as we suffer. And, even, his own death.

We, too, are called to witness to one another, out of our own woundedness, our own brokenness, and our own mortality through which God-in-Christ Jesus' power is revealed.

In this Sunday's post-Resurrection story, Jesus is with some disciples on the road, traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

Note that the Resurrected Christ Jesus seeks out, goes with, these disciples. He makes contact with them and keeps connected to them. He listens to them—their version of the story of “what went down in Jerusalem.”

Jesus listens to their tale of woe, their hearts' outpouring of hopes dashed, of disappointed dreams and plans. Hopes and dreams and plans for a Savior, the Messiah, who would redeem Israel. He listens and keeps silent—until they tell of the women encountering angels at Jesus' tomb who told them Jesus was alive.

At that moment, Jesus breaks into their story of grief and loss and reminds them of the faithfulness of God throughout their history as a people of God. Through all the generations, through all their days until this very moment.

(Turn page)

7

He wants them to hear and see that they never have been forsaken. And that God is with them now. Even more powerfully, more completely, through Jesus' death and resurrection.

So it is with us today. Here and now. In these times and in this place. We get caught up in our own tales of woe. What we fear, what we have lost, what makes us feel sad and forlorn. So caught up in our own experience of darkness that we don't see and we don't hear when God is showing us and telling us of God's presence and provision of LOVE, and LIGHT, and LIFE. In Christ Jesus. Who suffered and died and rose again. And lives in us!

May the Holy Spirit this week inspire you, like Thomas, to cry out loud these ringing words of faith:

My Lord and my God!

And may the Holy Spirit cause you to recognize Jesus, to see Jesus is with you, listening to the stories you tell that come from your heart, and showing you his loving care in the simple, most basic provisions of life: food for your body and rest for your soul. Amen.



Prayer of the Church

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

Announcements & Thank You

Dear Friends of NRC Chapel & Spiritual Care:

Chaplain Kristine is now sheltering at and working from home, on the edge of campus. Both the Chapel and the Chapel Office are being used now for medical purposes.

Televised services will be held again on Channel 105 at 10:30 AM on Sundays—as before—starting May 3.

The service will most likely be recorded at a local church and sent to NRC.

Please use these means to reach Chaplain Kristine: 320-310-3197 (cell); (507) 663-0737 [from 7:00 PM-8:00 AM]; and email: kbraatenlee@northfieldretirement.org.

Thank you for your patience during these changes.

Sending Hymn

*Let All Things
Now Living*

LBW 557

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us onto the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

His law he enforces, the stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!





CELEBRATING *50 years*

Cover art: James Tissot, *The Pilgrims of Emmaus on the Road*
(*Les pèlerins d'Emmaüs en chemin*)

Liturgy used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14651-LIT.
Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net A-716303.

Pastor Kristine Braaten-Lee, Chaplain (507) 664-3478
kbraatenlee@northfieldretirement.org

Christiana Adams, Spiritual Care Assistant (507) 664-7331
cadams@northfieldretirement.org