



The Word

Third Sunday of Easter *Week of April 26*

Call to Prayer and Sharing

- ✦ *Leader invites all into a few moments of silent reflection to remember that we are in the presence of God. (reflective pause)*

- ✦ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son"*

The Word of God

- ✦ *Leader reads part or all of one of the scripture texts from the previous Sunday.*

Luke 24:13-35

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.

Faith Sharing

- ✦ *Leader reminds everyone of the Question of the Week which relates to the particular group gathered*

Children: When you join Jesus at the table of the Eucharist next Sunday, what would you like to thank him for?

Teens: Jesus asked Peter three times to "feed my sheep." Who are you being called to help in your life right now?

Adults: In what way have you come to know Jesus better through the breaking of the bread at Eucharist?

We offer this form of contemplative sharing for pondering Scripture while considering the question, and for the faith sharing which follows.

- Listen/ Read (Lectio): Ponder God's word and listen for what touches your heart.
- Meditate (Meditatio): Notice what you notice. Allow God's word to resonate in you.
- Speak/Share (Oratio): Prayerfully share with the group your thoughts and feelings.
- Rest in God's presence (Contemplatio): Notice God's presence and be still, surrounded by God's love.
- Choose to act (Actio): Trusting in God's nearness, commit to action rooted in love.

Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow about 15 minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of three or four for faith sharing.

- ✦ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*
- ✦ *Continue with the meeting, turning to the agenda.*

Concluding the meeting

At the end of the meeting, the leader closes with the following prayer:

Good and Gracious God,
 your love for us surpasses all understanding.
 As we leave here today,
 be with us in all our comings and goings,
 and in all that we say and do.
 We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus who is our Light.
 Amen.