

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
(26.04.2020)**

**GREETING**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**WELCOME**

**APPROACH**

Lord Jesus  
in those days of wonder after Easter,  
you called Mary and Peter by their names,  
and they recognised you;  
and we too draw near to hear our names  
spoken in love  
and to know you again.

You broke bread with your followers  
on the road to Emmaus,  
and in the blessing, they recognised you;  
and we too come to share your blessing  
and your broken life,  
and to know you again.

You spoke peace to your disciples,  
showed them the marks on your hands,  
sent them out to bear witness to your risen life;  
and we too come seeking peace,  
seeking to bear witness  
and to be sent out renewed.

Come among us now,  
that we may recognise you  
in each other,  
and together know your healing and hope.  
**Amen.**

## **CONFESSION**

If we have fallen into despair,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have failed to hope in you,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have been fearful of death,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

If we have forgotten the victory of Christ,  
**Lord, forgive us.**

*(Silence)*

## **WORDS OF COMFORT & COMMITMENT**

Lord, let us not dwell in the past,  
nor worry about the future.  
We cannot undo what is done,  
we cannot foresee what will come.  
Let us instead dwell in your peace,  
love and be loved,  
heal and be healed.  
We give the past to you and rest in your forgiveness.  
We give the future to you and rest in your love.  
We live in your light, open our eyes so that we may see.  
We live in your love, let your love flow through us,  
to the fulfilment of your kingdom.  
**Amen**

## COLLECT

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## READINGS

### Zephaniah 3: 14-end

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the Lord.

## **Luke 24: 13-35**

### *The Walk to Emmaus*

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.

## **REFLECTION**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us place in the hands of God,  
all that disturbs us,  
all our longings for those who we hold in loving concern:

*The people pray*

Even as we pray to you, O God,  
we know that we are called to be your friends in this task.  
Give to us all that we need in commitment, in unselfishness  
and in faithfulness to you to be part of your loving work of transformation.  
We ask this for Christ's sake.

**Amen.**

### **THE PEACE**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said:  
'Peace be with you!'  
Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you. Alleluia!**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

**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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith together:

**In the God of all creation,  
we have our life and being,  
children of divine imagination  
born of love,  
for freedom and for truth and human being.**

**In the God in Christ,  
we see the vision for our journeying,  
walking unknown paths  
through crucifixions and resurrections,  
treading past our bleeding with passionate hearts  
into small spaces where life is reborn.**

**In the Spirit of joy and dreams  
we live on in the face of the struggle,  
laughing and weeping in the centre of our pain,  
celebrating in the power of our solidarity  
with all who stand for love and hope.**

## **BLESSING**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.

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

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