

## Faith-Sustaining Patterns in a World of Stockpiles

Faith cannot be stockpiled. It needs a pattern of replenishment. Today, the disciples are hungry. While their stomachs may not be rumbling, their hunger is shown in their lack of certainty about who Jesus is. Even though they were just talking about how Jesus walked with two of them on the road to Emmaus, his real presence now frightens them. Doubt, disbelief, and fear are like hunger to the disciples.

Jesus relieves the hunger with his risen presence. When the disciples are unsure what to make of the mess that life has become, Jesus shows up. When their hunger for truth and certainty is most apparent, Jesus walks into the room. The answer to someone's hunger is not to ask why they are hungry. Nor is the answer to doubt a question about why they cannot believe. The answer is food. The answer is the real Jesus showing up and easing fears. Everyone's faith needs sustenance. Those who listen to the preacher and gather at the table today are looking for the God of truth and love to settle their doubts.

Even though Jesus' disciples had been speaking about his appearance to two of them on the road to Emmaus just verses earlier, Jesus does not become agitated at the fact that the disciples are afraid of him. Jesus expects the fears and the doubts about his presence in the room. He knows that one post-resurrection appearance to them will never be enough. There will need to be more appearances to sustain the faith of generations of disciples!

The appearances become a pattern, with Jesus entering into the lives of his disciples, eating with them and teaching them. Finally, Jesus sends the disciples out as witnesses. Today the witnesses come back into the pattern of Jesus' appearance to remember what was witnessed—so that their own testimony of a Savior who sets their fears at ease will also ease the doubts and fears of other hearers.



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## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

*April 15, 2018- 5:00 PM*

#### THE EASTER GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- G** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** Just as God's work of creation never ends,  
so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day.  
Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.  
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life:  
for water to bathe in, water to drink,  
for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder,  
for water that gives life to our planet.
- G** **We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**
- P** We give you thanks for your salvation through water:  
for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters,  
for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom,  
for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought,  
for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land,  
for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.  
**We give you thanks for your salvation through water.**
- P** We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized,

and for all who gather here;  
for godparents and baptismal sponsors,  
for children and grandchildren,  
for those newly baptized and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ

**G** We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

**P** We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit:  
for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters,  
for our new birth into a life of freedom and service,  
for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

**G** We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

### THE FIRST READING: *Acts 3:12-19*

*After healing a crippled man, Peter preaches to the people how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.*

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord!    **G** Thanks be to God!

### THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 24:36b-48*

*In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.*

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you."

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

**G** **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, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### THE DISTRIBUTION

#### THE BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**G** Amen.

#### THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Life-giving God,

**G** **in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer  
darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people.  
Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we will show your glory to  
all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

#### THE DISMISSAL

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**G** **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**P** You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

**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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE** (Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**)

**WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

- P** The Lord be with you      **G** **And also with you.**  
**P** Lift up your hearts.      **G** **We lift them to the Lord.**  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.      **G** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**  
**P** It is indeed right, out duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we glorify and praise you; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**G** **Amen.**

**THE PREFACE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

<sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.      **G** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

*Pastor Marlin Wangsness*

**THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God,**

**Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**