

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

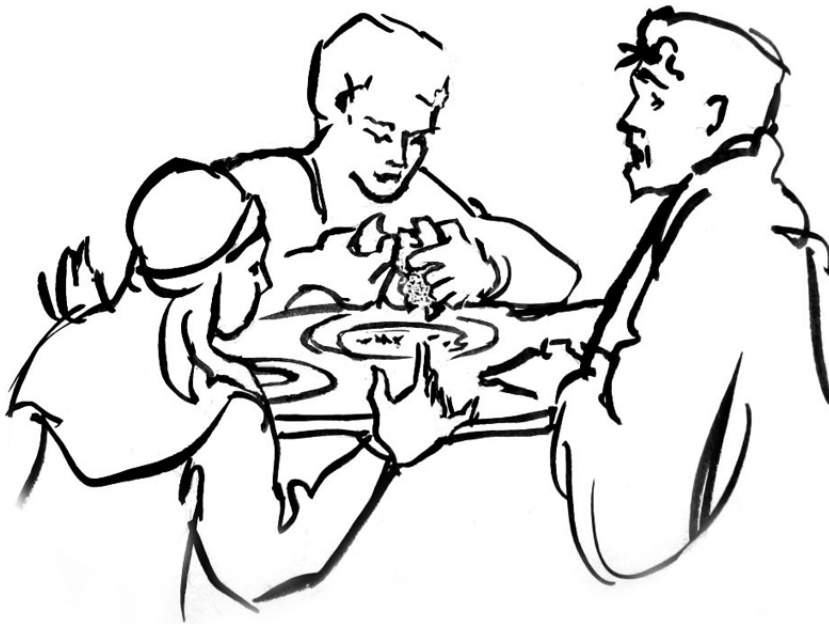
Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor  
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor  
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street  
Omaha, NE 68131-3616  
402-341-7761  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

April 26, 2020

9:00 AM

THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER



*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.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

*Mark Jones, Organist*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of our people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we will confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> At the Lamb's high feast we sing<br/>praise to our victorious king,<br/>who has washed us in the tide<br/>flowing from his wounded side. Alleluia!</p> <p><b>2</b> Praise we Christ, whose love divine<br/>gives his sacred blood for wine,<br/>gives his body for the feast—<br/>Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!</p> | <p><b>6</b> Now no more can death appall,<br/>now no more the grave enthrall;<br/>you have opened paradise,<br/>and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!</p> <p><b>7</b> Easter triumph, Easter joy,<br/>this alone can sin destroy!<br/>From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,<br/>newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-1868, alt.

### EASTER GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- C** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
- P** The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty God,
- C** your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of 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.

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

*Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

**P**eter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, <sup>36</sup>“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

**<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.

**<sup>4</sup>Then I called upon the name of the LORD:**

**“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things God has done for me?

**<sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God’s people.

**<sup>15</sup>Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

**<sup>17</sup>I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God’s people,

**<sup>19</sup>in the courts of the LORD’s house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING**

**1 Peter 1:17-23**

*The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.*

**I**f you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

<sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord!**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 24:13-35**

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

Now on that same day when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene, two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,<sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.<sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,<sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.<sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “*What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?*” They stood still, looking sad.<sup>18</sup> 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?*”<sup>19</sup> 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,<sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,<sup>23</sup> 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.<sup>24</sup> 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.*”<sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “*Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!<sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?*”<sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.<sup>29</sup> 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.<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.<sup>32</sup> 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?*”<sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.<sup>34</sup> They were

saying, “*The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!*”<sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

*(sit)*

### **CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)**

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

### **SERMON**

Pastor Hall

*(stand)*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”*

**ELW 539**

- 1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,  
among us with your grace,  
that evil may not harm us  
nor we to sin give place.**
- 2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,  
among us with your word  
and thus now and hereafter  
true peace and joy afford.**
- 3 Abide with heav'nly brightness  
among us, precious Light;  
your truth direct and keep us  
from error's gloomy night.**

- 4 Abide with richest blessings  
among us, bounteous Lord;  
let us in grace and wisdom  
grow daily through your word.**
- 5 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
among us with your love;  
grant steadfastness and help us  
to reach our home above.**

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588-1632; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923

## **THE NICENE CREED**

- P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- C** **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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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;  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

(stand)

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Response:**    **P** Lord, in your mercy,  
                  **C** hear our prayer.

*(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)*

**Thanksgiving:** for the birth of Silje Rith Pignatore, daughter of Nick and Amy Pignatore

**Sympathy:** to the family and friends of Ronald and Mary Stadie

**Illness:** Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig, Richard Bock, Carol Coffey, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Sherry Henneman, mother of Scott Henneman, Dolores Hiatt, Beth & Richard Holzer, sister & father of James Holzer, Roseann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Lara & Olivia McCormick, Joan Nelson, Gary Rodene, Rosemarie Schmidt, Sheri Tipton, Joyce Wachal, Ed & Darlene White, Joanne Worm

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in the military*—Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

**Other Prayers:** *Those serving in mission*—Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin; the Wittenberg Center and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

**Other Prayers:** *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Justin Perkins

## WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.                    **C** And also with you.

*As we share the peace today – and you do so in your home – You are invited you to contact a fellow member by phone, email or letter. You can do that today or any time during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. We could email each other or call each other during this time when we cannot meet. Then each week select another person to contact. Try to make it someone you don’t really know and get acquainted with them. Always be sure to leave your address, email, and phone number on your message in case they do not have a directory. Talk to people you know and get the names and addresses of those who might not have directories and try to contact them. By the time we meet again we will have made many new friends.*



# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“Jesus Lover Of My Soul”*

Joseph M. Martin  
Paul Rath, Soloist

## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*

ELW 184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

☐ Merciful God,

☑ our ordinary gifts seem so small in light of your Easter gift, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The music is written in treble clef.

## PREFACE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

### SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is more complex than the Thanksgiving hymn, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The music is written in treble clef.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to 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, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Come to the Easter banquet.

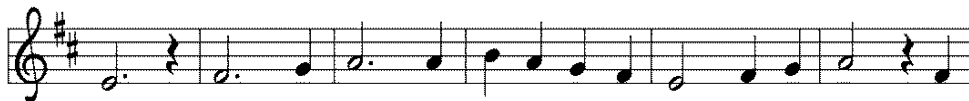
☑ **We receive the risen Christ!**

*(sit)*

### AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*(stand)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Dearest Lord Jesus,

**C** we believe that you are present in the Lord's Supper. We love you above all things, and we earnestly desire to receive you. Since we cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace you as if you are already there and we unite ourselves wholly to you. Never permit us to be separated from you. Amen.

## SENDING

### BLESSING

**P** May the God who raised Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

### THREE-FOLD AMEN

### HYMN

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

ELW 839

1 Now thank we all our God  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms,  
has blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us all in grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all harm  
in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and Spirit blest,  
who reign in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heav'n adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

### DISMISSAL

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C** Christ is risen indeed Alleluia!

**P** Go in peace. Share the Easter news.

**C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

### POSTLUDE

*Mark Jones, Organist*

† † †

## Special Notice

In compliance with government regulations restricting large gatherings we have canceled all worship services (Saturday, Sunday and Wednesdays), Sunday School, all meals, and other church activities at least through April 30. In the meantime, join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



# KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street  
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131  
[www.kmlchurch.org](http://www.kmlchurch.org)

April 26, 2020

*Alleluia!*

## Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers

**Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 9:00 - 11:00 AM;  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Fridays, 5:00 - 8:00 PM**—note additional day & time (Friday Pantry hours are 6:00 - 8:00 PM).

The Kountze Food Pantry is still operating at full force during these challenging times. We can only continue to operate if we have volunteers to serve. It has been inspiring to see how many people are willing to serve in the community. Just a reminder to sign-up online so Kountze can limit the number of volunteers in the building at one time, in order to comply with social distancing guidelines. The early shift from 7:30-9:00 AM is for unloading trucks and shelf stocking exclusively. 9:00-11:00 AM is for bag filling and serving guests. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM is for filling bags for Friday night, and serving guests. Please sign up for the time that works best for you. Thank you for your continued support!

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

## LYSO (Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha)

**June 8—12**

**8:30—Noon**

**Grades K-12**

Lutheran Youth Serve Omaha, or LYSO, is Vacation Bible School with a twist. It features faith formation, servant-hood, fellowship and fun! Children and youth will gather at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church for breakfast and devotions. Everyone is then divided by grade and sent out into the community to serve at sites around the Omaha-Metro area. Upon returning to Kountze, the youth will join together for reflection and a closing worship. Email Kristin Boe at [kristin@kmlchurch.org](mailto:kristin@kmlchurch.org) with questions. Registration coming soon!

## Shoppers Needed for deFreese Manor Residents

For the time being, deFreese Manor will not be taking residents on the bus to the grocery store. However, residents still need groceries. If you like grocery shopping and would be able to help in this way, please contact Sharon West at 402-212-4531 or [swest@defreese Manor.org](mailto:swest@defreese Manor.org)

## Today at Kountze

### Sunday School

This Sunday I will post a video of the Children's sermon on this page (KMLC Parent Group). In addition, I will be providing some printable activities that relate to the lesson. Take a picture of your child's work and post it in the comments. Let's stay as connected as possible while we can't gather together. Stay tuned for more fun activities! In Peace, Kristin

**Youth Forum** will be at 10:30 AM via Zoom. Contact Mike Jensen at [mwjensen@yahoo.com](mailto:mwjensen@yahoo.com) for details.

## Attendance and Giving

**Online Attendance:** 345

**Pantry Guests Served:** 372

**Medical Clinic Guests Served:** 31

**Offering:**

\$16,030.00 (Regular) \$9,259.74 (Specials)

\$777.00 (Phase 2)

*Our eyes have been opened to see the Lord.*

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	The first converts
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:17-23	A call to holy living
Wednesday	Matthew 8:5-13	Jesus heals a centurion servant
Thursday	Matthew 9:2-7	Jesus heals a paralytic
Friday	Matthew 14:13-21	Feeding the five thousand
Saturday	Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Christ the shepherd



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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?” **Luke 24:32 (NRSV)**

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Holy God, may your word and the community of faith open our eyes and our hearts to your living presence within us and among us through the risen Christ. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus had their eyes opened to you through the breaking of bread, open our eyes now with thankful hearts for this meal. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God of hope open your eyes to the presence of the risen Lord and fill you with joy.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When and where have you felt God’s presence?
- Have you ever had an experience where you didn’t recognize the impact until later? Explain.
- What Bible story or Bible verse or song helps you feel the presence of God?

*Read:* Luke 24:13-35.

We have within us the desire for the divine in our lives. As Christians, we want to see Jesus as Lord. We want to have our hearts burning within us. That may have happened weeks ago on Easter Sunday in worship with all the pageantry, song, and community gathered together to “break bread” (v. 35). Interestingly, for the disciples on the road to Emmaus, even though they had the risen Lord with them and he was teaching them the Scriptures, it was not until the breaking of the bread that he was revealed to them and they acknowledged that their hearts had been burning within them. Perhaps the sense of the divine in our lives is best recalled in retrospect. We are not in control of the divine in our lives. God is. The Holy Spirit uses human stories, the Bible, and the breaking of bread in community to create the burning in our hearts that we want to recall and talk about again and again. This is what happened to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. When has your heart burned with the sense of God’s presence in your life?

*Pray:* **Creator God, give us eyes to see and hearts that burn for the joy of your presence through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Peter tells the first converts to “Repent, and be baptized” (Acts 2:38a). Baptism is not something we often talk about in our daily lives. If you know of someone who has been thirsting to know about baptism, be willing to have that conversation and seek out the help of others, if needed.

The acronym **ACTS** (**A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, **S**upplication) was introduced during Lent as a way to experience prayer in our daily lives. Add a little extra movement to your prayers this week and make the shape of each letter as you pray: (**A**) I praise God for..., (**C**) forgive me for..., (**T**) I thank you for..., (**S**) I pray for ....., and finish with amen.

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10