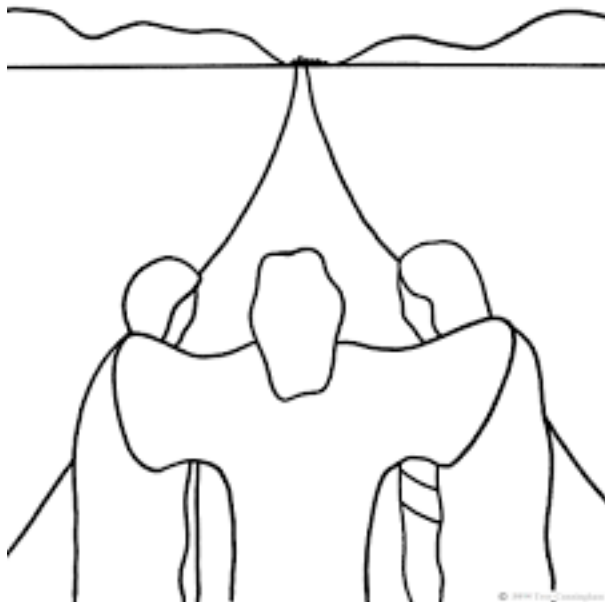


## Third Sunday of Easter



A quick read of any or all of the four Gospels lead us to an understanding that people were having a real go of things once the news of Easter and the Resurrection had surfaced. All of a sudden, that which everyone felt would have been the normal progression of things, totally changed.

The women that shared that initial revelations with the disciples were called delirious in the original Greek. Not just enthusiastic, but described as just plain crazy.

All of these stories must have been spinning in the minds of the two who were on the road to Emmaus. Wow, can you believe all of this????? It is to that mental mindset that Jesus engages with them as they walk.

There must have been some clarity in the words that they shared as when it was time to go their separate ways, they wanted Jesus to stay with them for the night. There are lots of elements to the story, but the best comes when Jesus breaks bread with them and their eyes are opened. Later the disciples struggle with all that has happened as well, and so Jesus clears the air.

Perhaps we need to realize that faith is believing in something. Doubt is not exactly the opposite of faith. It is a mental thing that locks up the believing process and so we have difficulty just believing. Our doubts block open acceptance. We struggle because instead of accepting things openly with our heart, we have to run it past our heads where it ultimately slows down!

Jesus makes it plain for all who would believe. I told you this was going to happen, now it did happen, and I am back as I said I would be. Now the message needs to go out to the entire world, and it would be up to them to get that task completed. They would not have to face that task alone, for they are reminded that Jesus would be sending them divine help in the form of the Holy Spirit. Now those who struggle with doubt can simply have their fears set aside when the Holy Spirit clarifies the message of repentance and salvation. Doubt has no part now! Dream Big!

## OUR WORSHIP TODAY

### GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music

### CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

This blessed Easter season is our celebration of the great work that Jesus had accomplish while here on earth. His care and concern for the lost, the disenfranchised, and the neglected of society points our attention to what Jesus truly felt important as He shared the good news that the Kingdom of God was made manifest in His work, His suffering, His death on the cross, and now, His resurrection. We allow too many things to distract our attention away from what Christ brought that first Easter, and all of the subsequent Easters we celebrate. For that, and for the many other times we let our Lord down, we make our confession this day.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things 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**

### ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake, and by His promise, forgives us all our sin. Therefore on His behalf, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray in His Holy Name, **Amen**

### HYMN 343 O Zion Haste 1,2,3

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): O God, 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 Alleluia. Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the scriptures. Alleluia.**

### THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 2:14, 36-41

New Living Translation (NLT)

Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this.

“So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”

Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

**THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 1:17-29**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as “temporary residents.” For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.

Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-49**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

That same day two of Jesus’ followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?”

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days.” “What things?” Jesus asked.

“The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth,” they said. “He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

“Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.”

Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, “Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.” So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?” And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, “The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.”

Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread. And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost!

“Why are you frightened?” he asked. “Why are your hearts filled with doubt? Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it’s really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.” As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet.

Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he ate it as they watched.

Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to

all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'  
You are witnesses of all these things.

"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

The Gospel of our Lord.

**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

**SERMON "Open Up Our Eyes!"**

**Pastor Jonathon Kosec**

**SERMON HYMN: 348 Shine, Jesus Shine 1,2,3**

**OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**THE OFFERING:**

*After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER**

**THE DISTRIBUTION**

**THE COMMUNION**

**HYMN 57 All Hail the Power of Jesus Name 1,3,5**

**THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL**

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C. Thanks be to God**

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**WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN!** Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! Please take a moment to turn your Cell Phone or other devices to mute, so they do not go off during the service and become disruptive. We appreciate your help to this regard. And thanks again for being here with us this morning!

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** We take time during our service to offer petitions for the prayer needs of ourselves, our families, our friends, and the world. Pastor will invite prayer requests at the beginning of our service, so simply share them at that time.

**TO OUR GUESTS:** Welcome! We are happy that you are here, and we hope you have felt comfortable since you arrived. You are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper this day as God's sign of our redemption, His presence among us, and His promise to come again.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS** this coming Tuesday at 3:00 PM.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC  
14344 Jamison Way Port Charlotte, FL 33953  
Website: <http://www.oslc-lcmc.com>  
Office: (941) 249-5108  
Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.  
Bible Study: Times as announced

Rev. Jonathon Kosec, Lead Pastor  
Pastor's email: [jonathonkosec@gmail.com](mailto:jonathonkosec@gmail.com)  
Cell Phone: (941) 916-7300

