

Worship Liturgy
April 26, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter

(People's responses in Bold print)

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing praises to God, you faithful,
give thanks to God's holy name!

**People: Weeping may linger for a night,
but joy comes in the morning.**

Leader: You turn our weeping to dancing, God;
you remove the garments of mourning
and clothe us in gladness.

**All: May we praise you and not be silent!
We will give thanks to you, O God,
forever!**

Opening Prayer

We come before you, O God, in Easter joy, seeking to be a people of the resurrection. Be known among us; grant us the assurance of your presence, your love, and your renewing power. Through your Word and Spirit, reveal to us your purpose in our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Call to Confession

God's love is steadfast, and God's faithfulness endures from age to age. Our love falters, and our faithfulness waxes and wanes from day to day. Let us confess our sin and our need for God.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you encourage us with your love, bringing new life out of death. We confess that we need your life-giving power in our lives and our relationships. We have hurt others and been hurt by them. We are often angry or afraid. We are not sure when to assert our needs and when to care for others' needs. We continue to live in ways which do not lead to peace and justice. Forgive us, O God. Pour your Spirit of wisdom and healing upon us, that by our lives and our loving, we may glorify you, through Jesus Christ the Risen One. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace and Reconciliation

Neither this world nor your life is so broken that God cannot restore it to wholeness. Trust and believe that, after separation, reconciliation is possible. God does show us the way home. In the name of Christ Jesus, your sin is forgiven.

Prayer of Illumination

Lord, you opened the meaning of the Scriptures to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and set their hearts ablaze. By the power of your Spirit kindle our hearts as we hear your word proclaimed, that we may receive you with joy. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:13-35

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession (please respond: "God of resurrection, hear our prayer.")

Invitation to the Offering

Bountiful are God's gifts to us.
In gratitude, let us offer our hearts
And the fruit of our labor to God's service

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God,
By your grace, accept the fruit of our labor
And the offering of our lives.
Let us be a sacrifice of thanksgiving
In union with our risen Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you forever.
Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Leader: We dare not come to this table trusting in our own goodness or virtue.

People: We come knowing we need forgiveness and trusting God to grant it.

Leader: We come because we are hungry for meaning and need to be fed.

People: God, forgive and feed us.

Leader: We come because Jesus Christ invited us.

People: We come as Christ's guests to the heavenly banquet.

Leader: We come in remembrance, but much more; in recalling the sacrifice of Christ for us we are moved to Christ-like identification with suffering humanity.

People: We join here not in passive recollection of ancient signs, but in active reflection of flesh and blood and blood realities which these signs represent.

ALL: Jesus, stand among us today as host and celebrant!

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer after Communion

**God of abundance, with this Bread of life and Cup of grace,
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.**

**Now send us forth in the
power of your Spirit
that we may proclaim your
redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the
risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

Benediction