

The Monday after Easter
St. Luke 24:13-35
April 6th, 2026
Sts. Peter and Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, UAC
Simpsonville, SC
Pastor Jerald P. Dulas

It Is Now the Third Day

In Nomine Iesu!

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sermon Text:

“But we hoped that it was He who should redeem Israel. Yea and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things came to pass.”

Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:

O Lord, send out Thy Light and Thy Truth, let them lead us. O Lord, open Thou my lips, that my mouth may show forth Thy praise. O Lord, graciously preserve me, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

My dear friends, Hallelujah! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Our Lord + Jesus had already arisen from the dead before the events of today's Gospel from the Evangelist St. Luke took place. But the full extent of this great news had not become clear to everyone, yet. We see the empty tomb and rejoice. For we know that He is not there; He is alive. This good news has been preached into our ears. We have heard from the holy Scriptures about how the Son of God must suffer and die for the sins of the whole world, and rise again on third day. We know these things to be true. We believe these things to be true. But these two men who walked along the way on the road to Emmaus had not yet had the Scriptures fully explained to them.

Therefore, even though the good news of the resurrection has occurred, we must go back to the time when His resurrection was not known to the disciples. These two men, Cleopas (who is mentioned in the reading), and Simon (another disciple from the seventy sent out by our Lord, who according to Church tradition is the unnamed disciple) are talking between themselves about the events that had taken place over the last week. Imagine their joy when they saw the Lord + Jesus coming triumphantly, like a king, into the city of Jerusalem to the cheering of the crowds. The multitude was placing their garments before Him in the way, and palm and olive branches were waved and put before Him. They shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” Their Messiah, the One “who should redeem Israel” had come and was going to establish the Messianic kingdom.

Things went south from there for the Lord + Jesus, from a human perspective; things did not go well for the One Who they believed was the One who should redeem Israel from the perspective of these two men who were on their way to Emmaus. They find that a few days after our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, that He has been tried by the chief priests and elders, that they have falsely charged Him with blasphemy, and have brought Him before Pontius Pilate, who condemned Him to death; condemned Him to die upon an accursed tree—upon a cross. Their Lord, the One Who was to redeem Israel, had suffered and died, and was buried. It was now the third day. These events had shattered the faith of these two men. They were expecting the establishment of a new kingdom, but

instead were given a dead king.

It is no wonder that they were sad. By their own words they confess that they had heard about the Lord's resurrection. They mention the women going to the tomb and finding the tomb empty. We have heard that same thing in our timeline, both on Saturday night, and yesterday morning. They confess, also, that Simon Peter and St. John, even though they do not name them, had gone to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. The empty tomb does not leave these two men with joy like does us. We have the benefit of understanding the Scriptures. That, "It behooved the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory." But their ears of faith had not yet been enlightened. Therefore, they are saddened by the Lord + Jesus, Who is unbeknownst to them, showing up and asking them about these events. How could someone not have heard what things had come to pass in these days in Jerusalem?!

The One the crowds were expecting to be the One to redeem Israel was dead and buried, and now, His body was gone, His tomb was empty. What were they to think? Because their faith had been damaged, they do not recognize the risen Lord + Jesus Who is walking and talking with them on the road to Emmaus. The good news for these two men is that on the threescore furlong journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus, our Lord + Jesus beginning with Moses and all the prophets, interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. They receive a catechism lesson from the Lord + Jesus Himself. While He taught them from the holy Scriptures, their hearts burned within them. The ember of faith, which had nearly gone out, began again to glow. They began to understand that the Christ must suffer all these things.

But they still did not recognize their Redeemer. They did not recognize that this man was the resurrected Lord + Jesus. It took the Lord breaking the bread before them, for them to see that He was the Lord. Their hearts burned within them so that they begged the Lord + Jesus to abide with them, even though He made it seem that He would be going further. They restrained Him to stay with them. While He was with them, He took bread, blessed it, break it, and gave it to them. Then were their eyes opened to see that this Man was the risen Lord + Jesus.

It is in the breaking of the bread that the Lord + Jesus is revealed. We also recognize our Lord + Jesus in the breaking of bread that takes place at this altar whenever we meet for Divine Service. We recognize our Lord + Jesus in the bread and wine. We recognize that His true Body and true Blood is in, with, and under the bread and wine. We are not just receiving earthly elements, but we are receiving the Lord + Jesus Himself. We eat His flesh and drink His blood for the remission of our sins. This is the benefit of this sacramental eating of our Lord. In bread and wine, we receive the Lord's Body and Blood, and in receiving it, we receive forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation.

But if we do not discern the Body and Blood of the Lord + Jesus in the bread and wine, we eat damnation unto ourselves. If we do not recognize our Lord + Jesus in the bread and wine, we eat and drink these elements to our great harm. The Lord + Jesus can only be recognized with the eyes of faith. For these things cannot be understood by our reason and senses.

The two men on the road to Emmaus could not recognize that this man walking and talking with them was the Lord + Jesus because their reason and senses would not allow them. When has anyone ever risen from the dead? In the record of the Scriptures, very rarely indeed. When has anyone ever raised Himself from the dead? That had never happened. Therefore, by their reason, this man could not be the Lord + Jesus, because raising oneself out of death into life again is not something that was possible. It is possible, however, with the Lord of life. The resurrection of the dead is possible with our Lord + Jesus. With Him are all things possible. It is possible for Him to give us His Body and Blood in bread and wine for the remission of our sins. Our reason and senses cannot understand this; it can only be grasped by faith.

The two men on their way to Emmaus recognized our Lord + Jesus when their eyes of faith were fully opened. The embers of faith began to glow in their hearts as they heard the preaching of our Lord + Jesus from Moses and Prophets about how He should suffer and die, and on the third day, rise again from the dead. The flame of faith became fully ignited when the Lord + Jesus took bread, blessed it, and gave it to them. He was known to them in the breaking of the bread. They saw that the Lord + Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, and was sitting among them. The One Who should redeem Israel had indeed did just that. He did not do it the way they imagined Him to do it. Rather, He did according to what the Scriptures taught: He must suffer and die, and on the third day be raised again from the dead.

Our Lord + Jesus is among us also. He is with us in His Word. By the pure preaching of the Gospel, and in the administration of the Blessed Sacraments according to the Christ's institution, our Lord + Jesus remains with us until the Last Day. Blessed are we who hear the Gospel, and receive the Sacrament, and see and recognize our Lord + Jesus in them. For when we recognize our Lord + Jesus in the Word and Sacraments, we recognize that He is giving us forgiveness and life. He is abiding with us to lift us out of the sadness caused by sin and death, and has come to set our hearts aflame with the faith which trusts in Him and His promises. It is this faith, fully ignited, which causes us to have great joy. The same kind of joy that the two men on the road to Emmaus experienced when they began to see that the Man walking and talking with them on the road was their Redeemer. It was the Lord + Jesus. He had indeed risen from the dead. He has defeated death, and now gives life to all those who cling in faith to Him.

Let us therefore, my dear friends, cling in faith to our Lord + Jesus. Let us pray that He would abide with us at all times. Especially that He would abide with us when the events of this life drive us into sadness. For He will come to us on our road of life, and by His holy Word enlighten our hearts to look past the sad events of this world, and look to the time in heaven when we will no longer sorrow, but will have everlasting joy. May He grant this unto us all! Hallelujah! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! In the Name of our Lord + Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:

Almighty God, be pleased to accompany Thy Word with Thy Holy Spirit and grant that Thy Word would increase faith in us; bring into the Way of Truth all such as have erred; turn the hearts of the unrepentant; and for sake of Thy Name grant succor to all heavy hearts and those who are heavy-laden, that they may through the mercy of the Lord + Jesus Christ be relieved and preserved so that they succumb not to the temptation of despair but rather that they gain the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil; through the same + Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

The Votum:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ + Jesus. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!