

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

For those whose hearts are fervent with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the diverse natural world: for jungles, prairies, forests, valleys, mountains, and for all the wild and endangered animals who call these spaces home, that they are nurtured and protected. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 134. **Tuesday** 1 Peter 2:1-3. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380) Exodus 24:1-11. **Thursday** Psalm 23. **Friday** (Philip and James, Apostles) John 14:8-14. **Saturday** (commemoration of Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373) Ezekiel 34:1-16. **Fourth Sunday of Easter** Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10.

CELEBRATE April 26, 2020

Volume 51, Number 2

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 789-480) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 510 Marquette Ave, Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. Periodicals postage paid in Twin Cities, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.99 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2008, admn. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Mark Sedlo. Refrain accompaniment in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our Web site at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year A.

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12 of 15  
Tracks 1 and 2



# Celebrate

Third Sunday of Easter  
April 26, 2020

*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.*

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## 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.*

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:

<sup>36</sup>"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.



I will call up - on the name of the LORD.

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

<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given <sup>1</sup> ear to me  
whenev- <sup>1</sup> er I called.

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me;  
the anguish of the grave <sup>1</sup> came upon me;  
I came to <sup>1</sup> grief and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup>Then I called upon the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD:  
“O LORD, I pray you, <sup>1</sup> save my life.” **R**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I re- <sup>1</sup> pay the LORD  
for all the good things God has <sup>1</sup> done for me?

<sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup <sup>1</sup> of salvation  
and call on the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows <sup>1</sup> to the LORD  
in the presence of <sup>1</sup> all God’s people.

<sup>15</sup>Precious in your <sup>1</sup> sight, O LORD,  
is the death <sup>1</sup> of your servants.

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I <sup>1</sup> am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me <sup>1</sup> from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>I will offer you the sacrifice <sup>1</sup> of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD. **R**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows <sup>1</sup> to the LORD  
in the presence of <sup>1</sup> all God’s people,

<sup>19</sup>in the courts of <sup>1</sup> the LORD’s house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! **R**

## 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.*

If 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.

## 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 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.