

Third Sunday of Easter

FutureChurch Online Liturgy of the Word

Introductory Rites

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

In the name of God, who loves us into being,
Of Christ Jesus, who calls us to fullness of life,
and the Spirit, who gifts and guides us on our journey
(making the sign of the cross)

ALL: AMEN

Greeting

Leader:

May the healing peace of Jesus,
the abundant Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you,

ALL: And also with you.

Introductory Remarks

Prepared by the Leader

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

Draw near to us, God of Life,
On our journey.

Open our hearts and minds and eyes to your healing power moving
around us and between us and within us,
so that your glory may be revealed in our love for each other,
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,
and in the healing of all that is broken.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Companion and Teacher,
Who lives and thrives with you, with us all,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

ALL: AMEN

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Texts have been adapted for inclusive/expansive language

First Reading

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles,

Then Peter stood up and addressed the crowd:

“People of Israel, hear this:

Jesus of Nazareth was sent to you with miracles, portents and signs as his credentials – which God performed through him in your midst, as you well know.

And God freed Christ from death’s bitter pangs by the resurrection, for it was impossible that death could keep its hold over Christ.

David says,

I have set our God ever before me;

God is at my right hand, and I will not be disturbed.

My heart has been glad, my tongue has rejoiced,

My body will live on in hope

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,

Nor will you let your faithful one undergo decay.

You have shown me the path of Life;

You will fill me with joy in your presence.

“Sisters and brothers, since David was a prophet

and knew that God had sworn an oath

that one of his descendants would sit upon the throne,

he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah,

who was not abandoned to the underworld; whose body did not decay.

God raised Jesus; of this we are all witnesses.

Exalted to the right hand of God,

Jesus received the promise of the Holy Spirit from God,

and what you now see and hear is the outpouring of that promise.”

All: The Word of God
Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalmist: The response is: "Show us the path of life, O God"
ALL: "Show us the path of life, O God"

Keep me safe, O God. You are my refuge.
I say "You are my God; there is nothing good for me apart from you."
You, O God, are all that I have,
you are my food and drink.
"Show us the path of life, O God"

I will praise you, God, who guides me;
Even at night my heart teaches me.
You are right by my side
And nothing can shake me.
"Show us the path of life, O God"

Therefore, my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon me to the Grave,
nor will you let your loved one see decay.
"Show us the path of life, O God"

You show me the path to Life;
Your presence fills me with joy,
And by your side I find enduring pleasure.
"Show us the path of life, O God"

Second Reading

Lector: A reading from the First Letter of Peter,

Beloved:

Since you call on God, who judges impartially
according to each one's works,
conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning,
realizing that you were delivered from your futile conduct,
not by any diminishing sum of gold or silver,
but by the precious blood of Christ,
Who was foreknown before the world's foundation
and revealed for your sake in these last days.
It is through Christ that you are believers in God,
the God who raised Christ from the dead into glory.
Your faith and hope, then, are centered in God.

ALL: The word of God
Thanks be to God

Gospel

Leader: Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader: Open the scriptures to us, dear Jesus;
and make our hurts burn within us as you speak!

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

A reading from the Gospel according to John:

That very day, the first day of the week,
two of Jesus' disciples were going
to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus drew near and walked with them,
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

Jesus asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?"
They stopped, looking downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,
"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem
who does not know of the things
that have taken place there in these days?"

Jesus replied, "What sort of things?"

They said to him,
"The things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth,
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word
before God and all the people,
how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over
to a sentence of death and crucified him.
But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel;
and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

(Continues on next page)

Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:
they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body;
they came back and reported
that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who announced that he was alive.
Then some of those with us went to the tomb
and found things just as the women had described,
but they did not see Jesus.”

Then Jesus said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are!
How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!
Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things
and enter into glory?”
Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
Jesus interpreted to them what referred to him
in all the Scriptures.

As they approached the village,
Jesus gave the impression that he was going on farther.
But the disciples urged, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.”
So Jesus went in to stay with them.

And it happened that, while he was with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and gave it to them.
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,
but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other,
“Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?”

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found the disciples gathered together, and said to them,
“Our Teacher has truly been raised!”
Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way
and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

The Good News of Our Salvation
ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

FAITH SHARING

Reflection

– CWP Video: www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/04262020

Questions for Shared Reflection:

1. *Jesus draws near to these two disciples on their journey to Emmaus in what might be described today as liminal space – an in between time, a time of potential – and walks with them to transformation. **Have you experienced or might you be experiencing such a space/time in your life of faith? What were the signs that God had drawn / is near? What transformation were you / might you be led to?***
2. *Mary Novak invites us to read this familiar story through the lens of restorative practices. **What inequities, injustices, and traumas are being revealed in new ways in this time of pandemic? What restoration and healing will need to take place? How can you be a part of that process even now?***

CONCLUDING RITES

Closing Prayer

Leader: Nourished by God's word and strengthened by this community,
Let us pray together,

ALL: Loving God, Holy One,

Your desire is for our wholeness and well-being.

We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.

We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.

We pray: may love, not fear, go viral. Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.

Help us to practice physical distancing, revealing to us new and creative ways to hold each other fast, so we may care for each other in tender solidarity.

**Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,
You, the God who does not abandon,**

**You, the Holy One, breathing within us, breathing among us,
breathing around us, in our beautiful yet wounded world. AMEN**

Adapted from "Prayer during a Pandemic" by Sr. Chris Koellhoffer, IHM

Leader: And may the God of hope fill us with every comfort and joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts and minds.
and may the Holy Spirit gift and guide us
(making Sign of the Cross) now and forever,

ALL: AMEN

Leader: God sets our hearts aflame as we go forth to love, to serve, and to heal. Alleluia!
Alleluia!

ALL: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!