



## The Word

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter** *Week of April 14, 2024*

#### ***Call to Prayer and Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader invites all into a few moments of silent reflection to remember that we are in the presence of God. (reflective pause)*
- ✦ *Then: “In the name of the Father and of the Son . . . .”*

#### ***The Word of God***

- ✦ *Leader reads part or all of one of the scripture texts from the previous Sunday.*

Luke 24: 35-48

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way,  
and how Jesus was made known to them  
in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this,  
he stood in their midst and said to them,  
“Peace be with you.”

But they were startled and terrified  
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled?  
And why do questions arise in your hearts?”

Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.

Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones  
as you can see I have.”

And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed,  
he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?”

They gave him a piece of baked fish;  
he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them,

“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you,  
that everything written about me in the law of Moses  
and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And he said to them,

“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer  
and rise from the dead on the third day  
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,  
would be preached in his name

to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.  
You are witnesses of these things.”

### ***Faith Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader reminds everyone of the Question of the Week which relates to the particular group gathered . . . .*

**Children:** Name some times when you know Jesus is with you.

**Teens:** What are some ways that you know that God is with you? Who are the people, where are the place, and what are the occasions when you feel closest to God?

**Adults:** When have you had an “Aha”; moment, when you suddenly realized that God was with you?

We offer this form of contemplative sharing for pondering Scripture while considering the question, and for the faith sharing which follows.

- Listen/ Read (Lectio): Ponder God’s word and listen for what touches your heart.
- Meditate (Meditatio): Notice what you notice. Allow God’s word to resonate in you.
- Speak/Share (Oratio): Prayerfully share with the group your thoughts and feelings.
- Rest in God’s presence (Contemplatio): Notice God’s presence and be still, surrounded by God’s love.
- Choose to act (Actio): Trusting in God’s nearness, commit to action rooted in love.

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow about 15 minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of three or four for faith sharing.*

- ✦ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*

- ✦ *Continue with the meeting, turning to the agenda.*

### ***Concluding the meeting***

*At the end of the meeting, the leader closes with the following prayer:*

Good and Gracious God,  
your love for us surpasses all understanding.  
As we leave here today,  
be with us in all our comings and goings,  
and in all that we say and do.  
We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus who is our Light.  
Amen.