



Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News

Third Sunday of Easter, April 19, 2026

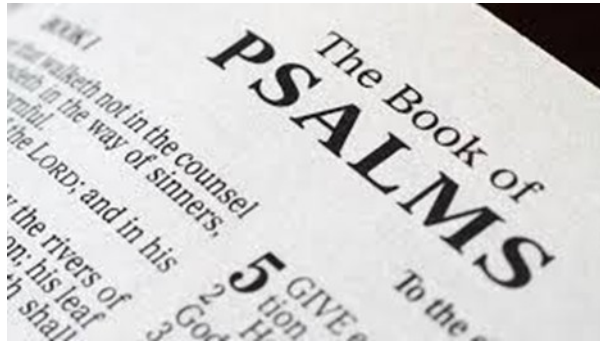


Recognizing Jesus

On the day of the resurrection, two disciples walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus, grieving and confused by the events of Jesus' death. The risen Christ comes alongside them, though they do not recognize him. As they begin talking with Jesus, they ask him if he knows of the things that have been going on... Jesus responds by saying "What things?" Jesus meets these disciples where they are and he opens the Scriptures; their hearts burn within them. When Jesus breaks bread with them, their eyes are opened, and they recognize him. Filled with joy, they return to Jerusalem to share the good news: Christ is risen and walks with us even when we don't recognize him.



Thank you to all the volunteers, musicians, and staff who worked so hard to put together a grand celebration last Sunday. We hope to download the history video to our website soon.



The Songs Jesus Knew

Musician Richard Bruxvoort Colligan describes how the Psalms are woven throughout the New Testament and can continue to speak to us today:

The Psalms are the songs Jesus knew by heart. When I sing them, I like to imagine I'm sitting with him and his circle. Given the references to the Psalms in other books of the Bible, it seems the New Testament writers may have felt the same. Reading what amounts to psalmic hyperlinks into their texts, we can notice the vital connection across Testaments to our heritage of faith. Modern readers, therefore, are part of something ancient. Whatever faith looks like (or doesn't) for you these days, the psalms are robust soil in which you can sink your deepest roots....

The psalmists sang about everything. Joy, grief, and facing the unknown are dimensions of what Jesus called the "abundant life" (John 10:10), and these 150 ancient songs can startle us with what we see of our world and lives reflected back in their mirror. They sing of ecology, theodicy, political corruption, justice work, personal crises, national tragedies, forgiveness, and death. And we're invited along for the ride. In their musical soundtrack, we can hear and see our own world in which spirituality and meaning are spun through everything. As Psalm 145 sings, the covenant pattern of God's presence stretches everywhere.

Because the psalms tackle such a vast range of issues, immersing ourselves in them today can help us to examine what we'd like to separate, and to integrate those pieces into our reality; it's the work of integrity. This is not the sort of thing you want if you're looking to hang on to grudges, avoid your nation's impact on the world, or fight against unfailing love. It is, however, for all of us who are ready to honestly examine our minds (and the world's) contradictions, paradoxes, and complications and bring them into one experience. For a contemporary take on the songs Jesus knew google The Psalms Project.

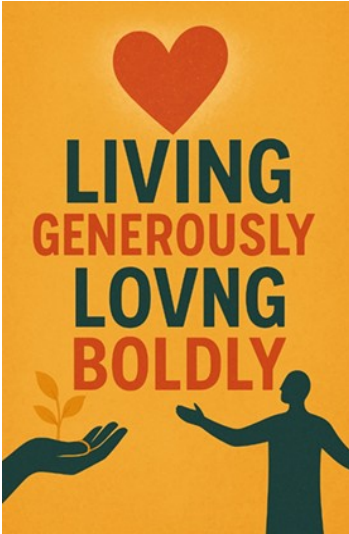


Adult Study this Wednesday, April 15 at 6PM in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be looking at several examples of how God used ordinary people to be tremendous agents of healing and change in a time of great fracture, division, and suffering. This week we look at St. Francis of Assisi.

40 Years > \$40,000 Mission Outreach Challenge

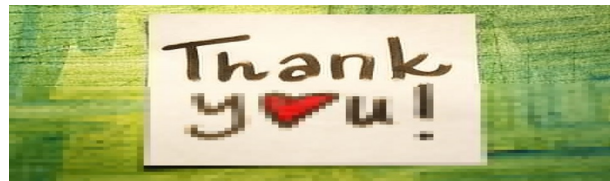
At our anniversary celebration on April 12, we officially announced our goal over the next 8 months to raise \$20,000 to match what the Board had previously set aside to serve as a mission outreach gift to sister ELCA ministries in our Rio Salado Conference.



Since the initial \$20,000 gift, our Endowment Committee has added a gift of \$2,000, and our LoC Preschool is looking to make a \$3600 gift to the 40th Anniversary Mission Fund. Joining these gifts are the designation of \$2,000 from the Pastor Don Thompson Legacy Fund.

San Tan Valley-Crossroads Lutheran is reaching out in the fast-growing SE corner of the metro area and First Place, an outreach of First Evangelical Lutheran in Mesa is committed to serving the Latino majority neighbors of their historic neighborhood of Mesa.

They are our mission partners we hope to support with our mission challenge gift. If you want to support this effort, you can do it online using the 40th Anniversary donor line, or mark checks or envelopes with 40th Anniversary. With \$27,600 already toward our goal, can we reach \$40,000 by December 31, 2026? By living generously and loving boldly, we can!



Darlene Fleischhauer would like to thank all those who gave her thank you cards in recognition of her many years of service and hard work for LOC. She was greatly touched by each and every card. The kind words are both exciting and overwhelming to her.

Thank you all for the cards acknowledging our years of serving at Love of Christ.

It was much appreciated!

Dianne Oien

Dick Beckman

Jung Lee



Handbell Ringers Needed

Do you read music and count beats? We would love to have you join our Handbell Choir! We are looking for ringers for monthly Sunday performances.

Rehearsals are held **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenroom**. If you're interested, please let me know—we'd love to ring with you! You can contact me at jungmusic@loclc.org

We can't wait to celebrate this wonderful season of music, fellowship, and joy with all of you.

Music Notes....

With gratitude and excitement,
Jung Lee



Calling All Bakers

Cookie Ministry is looking for people who like to bake. The Cookie Ministry is part of the Faith in Action programs at Love of Christ. This ministry makes cookies for our various events that are held here on our campus and beyond our campus. If you are interested in baking cookies for this ministry, please contact Eunice Ketterling at ketts4az@gmail.com

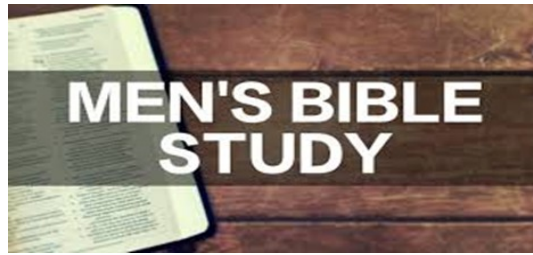


Community Garden News

A group of Love of Christ preschool kids planted these “bunching” onions last October at the church community garden. After Easter, they harvested and cleaned the onions bulbs to use at home and saved some as seed stock for next fall planting. Watch for new things happening at the garden soon. Contact Nancy Tollefson dgtollefson@gmail.com



Naomi Circle will meet on May 11th, at 1PM in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome—invite your friends!

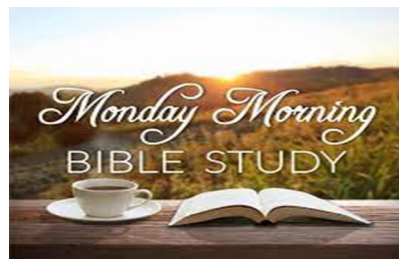


Monday Men's Bible Study on 1st Corinthians at 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room.

Men of all ages are welcome to participate.



Online Video introductions provided by our pastors of Sunday Lectionary readings are offered each week. They may be found on Facebook, YouTube or loveofchristchurch.net



Monday Morning Bible Study in the Leadership Room.

Coffee Fellowship at 10:30, Bible Study at 11AM

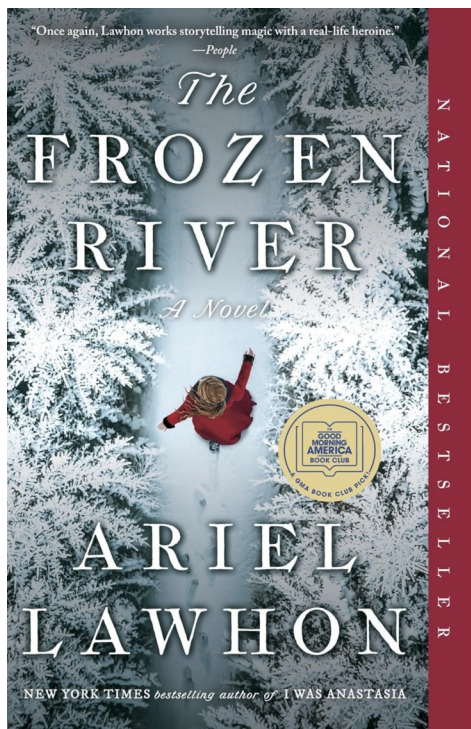


Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to a weekly Bible study group called Prayer Share Care. ***This group meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 in the Leadership Room.*** Please contact Ruth Leonard or Margrit Aeschbach at the following emails for more information. (Margrit: mswiss43@gmail.com and Ruth: ruthleonard@icloud.com)

The LOC Book Club will be meeting on May 17th to talk about, The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon. This book won the award in 2025 for best in historical fiction. We look forward to seeing you in May.

To help you get started, here is a short synopsis of the book:



Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Her diary is a record of every birth and death, crime and debacle that unfolds in the close-knit community. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.

Over the course of one winter, as the trial nears, and whispers and prejudices mount, Martha doggedly pursues the truth. Her diary soon lands at the center of the scandal, implicating those she loves, and compelling Martha to decide where her own loyalties lie.

Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and

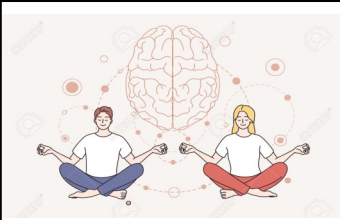
not heard. *The Frozen River* is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day.

Baby Shower

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest hosts a baby shower each Mother's Day for their clients. They are in need of baby items for about 80 mothers. You can participate in this drive by purchasing needed items from Amazon and having them delivered directly to LSS-SW. Follow this link to make a gift:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/37KGGTWYMD24A?ref=wl_share

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Danielson @ ekdanielson@gmail.com



Last Faith stretch yoga for the season **on Thursday 4/16 at 9:00am in Outreach room. Will resume in October.**

For questions and more information, text Georgia at 406-925-0013 or email: nonnagg51@gmail.com .



Youth and Confirmation will be on Wednesday, April 15th at 5:30 for dinner and 6:00 for Confirmation

Contact Mason Weatherly for more info at masonw@loclc.org



Confirmation

Confirmation will be held on Wednesday nights from 6PM to 7PM in the room 48.

Next Confirmation class will be held on Wednesday, April 22nd.

Any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org

Spring/Summer Overview for 2026 Save the Dates:

May 3: Children's Musical at 9:00

May Family Promise 5/10-17: We will need meals, overnights, and hosts.

June 11,12,13: Synod Assembly at LoC

June 15-19: Music Camp ages 5 and up

July 6-10 VBS

About Family Promise

In Operation since 2000, Family Promise – Greater Phoenix has provided more than just shelter for families. For the past 19 years, the programs at Family Promise have helped more than 500 families. These programs have enabled families to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

The Family Promise Mission is providing emergency shelter and social services to help families move toward independent housing and self-sufficiency.

Vision: The Vision of Family Promise is a community of whole and healthy families.

At Family Promise, we give families the tools and training to care for their children, find employment and housing, and become independent and successful. We strive to provide a safety net for children and their families before they drop into a cycle of endless shelters, loss of school attendance, unemployment, family instability and foster care.

Family Promise provides basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter, but we also provide a safe, encouraging, and constructive environment for families that feel lost and scared. Family Promise's long-term goal is to break the cycle of homelessness and create a sense of community for the families that participate in the program, and the thousands of volunteers that have contributed to this program over the years.

Congregations

Congregations are at the heart of our work. More than two dozen congregations provide temporary shelter, meals, activities, and compassion to our families. Up to four families are housed on the campus of each congregation for a week at a time, providing a safe, accepting environment. Each morning, a Family Promise van brings family members to the Family Center, where the children may depart for school, some adults may head to work, and others continue their job search. Each evening, the families return to the congregation for dinner, activities, and an overnight stay in their own room or area.

“A chance for volunteers at congregations to live their faith. It's a wonderful mission outreach program that takes place right in the safe environment of your congregation.”



Our Sunday School Ministry for ages 4-2nd grade Sunday School is from 9:10-9:50. Children are to come to church with their parents and are dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. They return to worship during Communion. For grades 3-6 Sunday school begins at 9:50 and they are done at 10:20. Sunday School takes place in the Godly Play room. For any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org.

Faith Food and Fun (Grades 4,5, and 6)



Grades 4,5, and 6 will meet in the CoC on **Sunday, May 17 at 3:30 pm**. Please contact Laura Ontiveros or Pastor Nanette for more information.

WOW! Word on Wednesdays

Word on Wednesdays is on Wed. April 15th with Children's Musical, Adult Bible Study, and Confirmation/Youth Group. Beginning at 5:30, there is a light meal with everything else starting at 6:00 pm.

Children's Musical—The FAB 4 Kids Show—Rockin' the Gospels All the Way to the Cross!

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7:30pm in Room 50

Performance: Sunday, May 3rd at 9AM

🌸 MomCo at Love of Christ Lutheran Church! 🌸

Calling all moms! Whether you're in the thick of toddlerhood, navigating teenage years, or somewhere in between — you're not alone.



We're excited to announce that our church will now be hosting MomCo, a community designed for moms, by moms. MomCo is a place where women gather in circles of support, friendship, and faith — because raising humans is both beautiful and hard, and no one should have to do it alone:

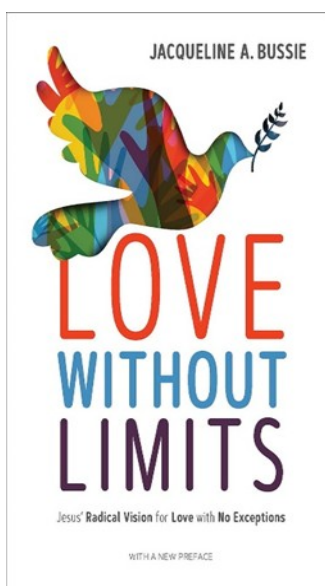
- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

Join Us! Location: Love of Christ

📅 When: **Next meeting May 6th**, first Wednesday of the month from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Godly Playroom located in entrance to Center of Compassion.

📞 Contact: Kacey Weir or Pastor Nanette Christofferson 🌐

Online Options: - <http://www.themom.co/groups/loveofchristmesa>, - www.themom.co/join (use Code: M1WH)



Love Without Limits will meet on Wednesday, May 6th at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

In her book, Jacqueline Bussie says nothing is more scandalous than a “love without limits.” How does a love without limits mirror Jesus and the God we are called to serve? How does this echo Jesus’ ministry in Luke 15 (the parables of being lost) or Paul’s proclamation in Galatians 3:28 (There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one Christ Jesus)? This study is open to all women who are interested in learning about our God who loves without limits! They will be discussing Chapter 8.

Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship with Lutheran Social Services:

Our Co-Sponsorship Team has been helping a refugee family from Syria. The help that is needed is working with the adults who are learning English. This team is making wonderful progress and forming some beautiful relationships with the family as well. We have provided back to school clothing and backpacks for each of the four children, along with teaching them English. If you are interested in learning more or think you might like to join this team, please contact Chris Norden at norden6162@gmail.com



Young Adults are typically between the ages of 18 and 30-5 ish! We are fortunate to have these Young Adults interested in gathering and learning together. Our next meeting will be **on Sunday, April 26th** at 12:15 at Got Sushi on N. Power Rd and McDowell, where we will discuss Buddhism and Confucianism. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette or Laura Ontiveros.

BLANKETS FOR KIDS!!!



Questions? Contact Jan Barnett at: barnett105@gmail.com

- 2 Methods of finishing the edges of the blankets
- Sewing around the edges
- Crocheting around the edges
- Both methods start the same

Lay Fabric on a table, trim off the Salvage edges of the fleece;

- Sewing around the edges

Fold $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch around the edge ;

Pin the folded edges all around the edge;

Choose a decorative stitch on sewing machine and start sewing

If your machine only does Zig Zag, that is great also.

- Optional--Baste $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of fold around the edge of the fleece with a needle and thread (Optional)

OR

- Just fold the fabric over about $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch and cut very small slits in the fold;
- Slits should be no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in length and around $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch from the each other
- If you basted around the edges

Remove the basting from the fleece

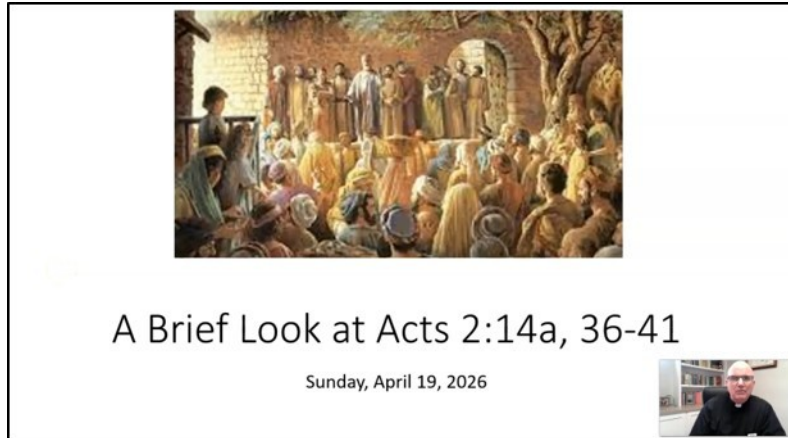
- If you have a rotary cutter, you can purchase wheels that will cut the slits in the fleece material the same distance and the slit created is large enough to slip the crochet hook through. Then follow the remaining directions.
- If you just folded and cut the slits;

Start crocheting around the edge. (I start 6 or 7 inches from the corner of the fleece to make turning the first corner easier.)

1. Start by creating a slipknot.
2. Insert the crochet hook through a slit in the fleece and pull the loop of the slip knot through;
3. Chain 3 times (create a chain by yarning over the hook and pulling it back through the initial loop.); chain only 2 times if you have used the rotary cutter;
4. Push the crochet hook through the slit next to the one just used (back to front) and pull a loop back through the slit. (You will have 2 loops on the crochet hook.)
5. With the 2 loops still on the hook, yarn over the hook and pull through both loops. Now chain 2 more times.
6. Proceed around the fleece using steps 4 and 5.
7. To turn a corner, follow steps 4 and 5, but insert the hook again in the same slit and do 1 chain and then insert the hook again and perform steps 4 and 5, Then you should be on a new side of the blanket and proceed following steps 4 and 5

There is an additional set of slides which have instructions on how to start crocheting. If you do not need those instructions, ignore.

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Acts 2:14a, 36-41
with Pastor Steve Talmage
(13 min)

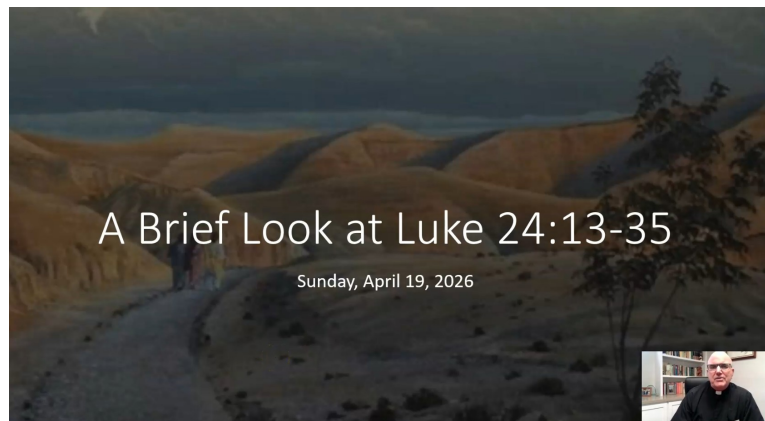


YouTube: <https://youtu.be/EyYKkjhPXEO>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1873152446730611/>

Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Scripture Lesson
A Brief Look at Luke 24:13-35
With Pastor Steve Talmage
(14 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/AVhS5gOvDNO>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1597015311387675/>

Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on



&



Pastor Nanette Christofferson “Recognizing Jesus ”

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd.

“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

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?” 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. 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.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Luke 24:13-35

The Walk to Emmaus

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. 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?” 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us¹ while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.