



THE LIVING  
WORD  
OF  
EASTER

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

April 16 - April 22



# SEASON OF EASTER

## *Third Sunday of Easter*

There's a kind of grief that has no name. It's the grief of losing the future you had hoped for. The disciples on the road to Emmaus were mourning a world they had built within themselves, a world in which all the longing of Israel found its answer in Jesus. "We had hoped," they said. Hope had become past tense.

We've probably all walked that road—or will. It's the road you travel when what you've organized your life around seems to collapse. And you keep walking because you don't know what else to do.

What's astonishing is what happened on this road. Jesus came to them there. He met their downcast eyes, and he walked with them through the ruins of their hope before he rebuilt it. This is the first gift he gave them: his heart. He gave them his mercy before their faith had recovered. The risen Christ doesn't demand we arrive at belief before he arrives at us.

Then he gave them his word. He opened the Scriptures—beginning with Moses, ending with himself—and he patiently showed them what they could not yet see. He showed them that the suffering was never the story's failure. The Messiah had to suffer. The cross wasn't a detour away from the kingdom, but the kingdom's deepest logic. He helped them see that God bore the full weight of what we could not carry, bearing in his own body the wages we had earned.

Jesus expanded their redemptive imagination for what God had always intended to do. But even after all of this, their eyes remained closed. Until he sat at the table, took the bread, and broke it. And in that breaking, they knew him.

The famous 17th-century painter, Caravaggio, painted this scene. Twice. The first time, young and filled with his own brilliance, Caravaggio painted a lavish table, astonished faces, arms flung wide. Beautiful, but distant. The work of a man who had not yet needed what he was painting.



But years later, after suffering, exiled, and disgraced, he painted it again. This time, the room was darker and the faces more weathered. Jesus looks older, and his suffering is written on his resurrected face. The second painting seems to show that ***this kind of encounter is what happens when you have completely run out of hope and then discover it again in the person of Jesus.***

Hope, we find, is not a concept, but a person to be received. The risen one, meeting you where your road runs out, asking you about your downcast face. And when you let him walk with you, and invite him in, something ignites— “Were not our hearts burning?”—and you find your heart brimming with hope again.

The great English poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins, wrote, “Let him Easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us.”

***Jesus still seeks out disillusioned disciples—on whatever road you are walking. Let him Easter in us.***

## FOR reflection

***Where in your life have you lost hope? Ask Jesus to meet you in that loss and give you hope again.***



# SCRIPTURE

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Thursday</b>	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:1-5; 1 Peter 1:8b-12
<b>Friday</b>	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 26:1-4; 1 Peter 1:13-16
<b>Saturday</b>	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:6-9; Luke 14:12-14
<b>Sunday</b>	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
<b>Monday</b>	Psalm 134; Genesis 18:1-14; 1 Peter 1:23-25
<b>Tuesday</b>	Psalm 134; Proverbs 8:32-9:6; 1 Peter 2:1-3
<b>Wednesday</b>	Psalm 134; Exodus 24:1-11; John 21:1-14

### ***Why do the daily readings begin on Thursday?***

The daily readings for each week begin on Thursday and end on the following Wednesday. The Thursday through Saturday readings prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead. The Monday through Wednesday readings reflect on what was presented on Sunday.

# The Morning Liturgy

## **Opening Scripture**

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*1 Corinthians 15:57*

## **Opening Prayer** (based on Psalm 51)

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. *Amen.*

## **Scripture Reading** (read Psalm and Gospel text here)

## **Period of Silence**

## **Confessing Our Faith** (Apostles' Creed)

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## **The Collect** (Third Sunday of Easter)

*O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

*Amen.*

## *A Midday Prayer*

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. *Amen.*

## *An Early Evening Prayer*

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

## *A Bedtime Confession and Prayer*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

*Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*





