



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney's Lent Course 2024

THE WAY TO THE CROSS

MONDAY 15 APRIL



FAITH, HOPE, AND TRUST IN THE LOVE OF GOD

The theme from this Sunday's readings that we will take with us through the week is Faith, Hope and Trust in the Love of God.

After two Sundays of hearing the Resurrection Account of John (and perhaps Mark on Easter Sunday) this Sunday we hear from Luke's account of the disciples encounters with the risen Jesus.

The portion of Luke set for the Third Sunday of Easter is Luke 24. 36b - 48. This directly follows the encounter on the Road to Emmaus of the disciples (Luke 24.13-35). Two disciples are walking to Emmaus, encounter the risen Jesus but do not realise who he is until they have eaten with him and then he opens up the scriptures for them.

In Luke 24, 36-48 Jesus appears to the disciples and offers three proofs of his existence, repeatedly saying that he is not a ghost, the risen Jesus shares food with the disciples and then opens up the meaning of scripture to them and charges them to be witnesses.

Collect for the
Third Sunday of
Easter

O God, your Son
made himself known
to his disciples in the
breaking of bread.
Open the eyes of our
faith, that we may
see him in his
redeeming work,
who is alive and
reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for
ever.
Amen.

There are three proofs that Jesus is the risen Lord and not a ghost or spirit (something Jesus explicitly states). Jesus asks the disciples to look at him (vv36b-40). Jesus eats in the presence of the disciples (something common in the post-resurrection appearances in the Gospels), again proving that he is not a ghost or spirit (vv41-42). Jesus demonstrates that his death and resurrection are part of his kingship through opening up the minds of the disciples so that they could understand the scriptures (vv 44-47). Jesus describes the group as witnesses to the resurrection (v48) and calls them to do something about this, but

4. “You are witnesses” (v. 48): Jesus’ description of and call to the group to do something about what they have experienced and seen.

The first thing that the risen Jesus says to the group of disciples is ‘Peace be with you’. Jesus comes into the room of confused, not sure what to believe or understand disciples and says a word of calm and greeting. The disciples are scared and frightened initially and it could be assumed that Jesus’ proof that he is resurrected not a ghost calms them as they study scripture with him.

In Eastertide, one of the scripture readings comes from the Acts of the Apostles, the sequel to the Gospels, the book of the New Testament that tells us about the early church, of what happened next when the disciples were witnesses to what happened to Jesus - his death and resurrection (and ascension). The readings from Acts is words from Peter. Peter has healed a lame beggar in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. People have witnessed this and come to Solomon’s Portico to see what happened. This is a portion of Peter’s speech explaining who Jesus was and is.

The portion from 1 John 3 reminds us that we are God’s beloved children, even if we do not look or act appropriately. It calls us to consider our actions, including in our faith lives and start afresh.

Psalm 4 can be seen as a Psalm of Affirming God’s faithfulness. It begins and ends with personal pleas to God to answer pleas and to be able to lie down and sleep in peace and safety. In the middle verses the Psalmist speaks of their concerns (v 3) and proverbial advice (vv 4-5), follows this with thanksgiving (vv 6-7) and ending in spiritual resolve (v8).

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

Luke 24.36b

Usual Weekly Pattern

Sunday
RCL Eucharist
Readings and Collect

Monday
Delving Deeper into
the Readings

Tuesday
Words from Others
(sacred & secular)

Wednesday
Resources from the
Arts

Thursday
Contemplative Acts

Friday
Personal Reflection
- what this means to
me

Saturday
Acts & Deeds

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT

- In Psalm 4 the Psalmist lists a concern then answers it themselves with advice from scripture. What is a concern you have? Where in scriptures might there be advice that responds to your concern?
- In Acts 3.12-19 we hear Peter talk about who Christ was and is. How would you describe Jesus Christ to a group of people who had not heard of Jesus before?
- What does it mean to be 'children of God' in the context of the reading of 1 John 3?
- In Luke 24.36 the resurrected Jesus greets the disciples with 'Peace to you'. What does peace mean to you and how does Jesus' greeting of 'Peace to you' challenge your understanding in today's world?
- In Luke 24.48 Jesus tells the disciples that they are witnesses. How are you a witness to Jesus in your life and community? What does it mean to you to be a witness to Christ, is this different to being a courtroom witness?



How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity.

*Refrain for
Psalm 133*

Eternal God,
the light of the
minds that know
you,
the joy of the
hearts that love
you,
and the strength
of the wills that
serve you:
grant us so to
know you
that we may
truly love you,
so to love you
that we may
truly serve you,
whose service is
perfect freedom;
through Jesus
Christ our Lord.
Amen

*after Augustine
of Hippo (430)*