



## 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 existance, 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 scrpture 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 Iesus 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

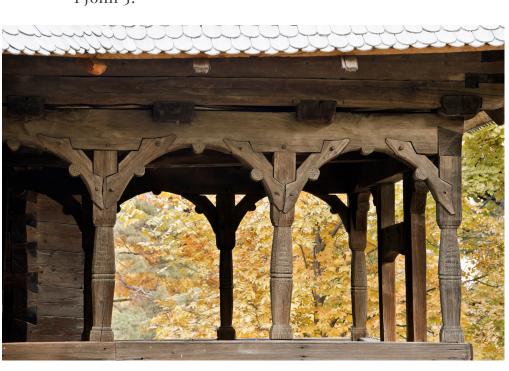
Thursday Contemplative Acts

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 Luke 24.36 the resurrected Jesus greets the disciples with 'Peace to you'. What does peace meant to you and how does Jesus' greeting of 'Peace to you' challenge your understanding in today's world?
- 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?
- 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?
- What does is mean to be 'children of God' in the context of the reading of 1 John 3?



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

Refrain for Psalm 133

Eternal God, the light of the minds that know vou. the joy of the hearts that love vou. 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)