Lifting our souls, Trusting in God

LENT AND EASTER COURSE FROM THE DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

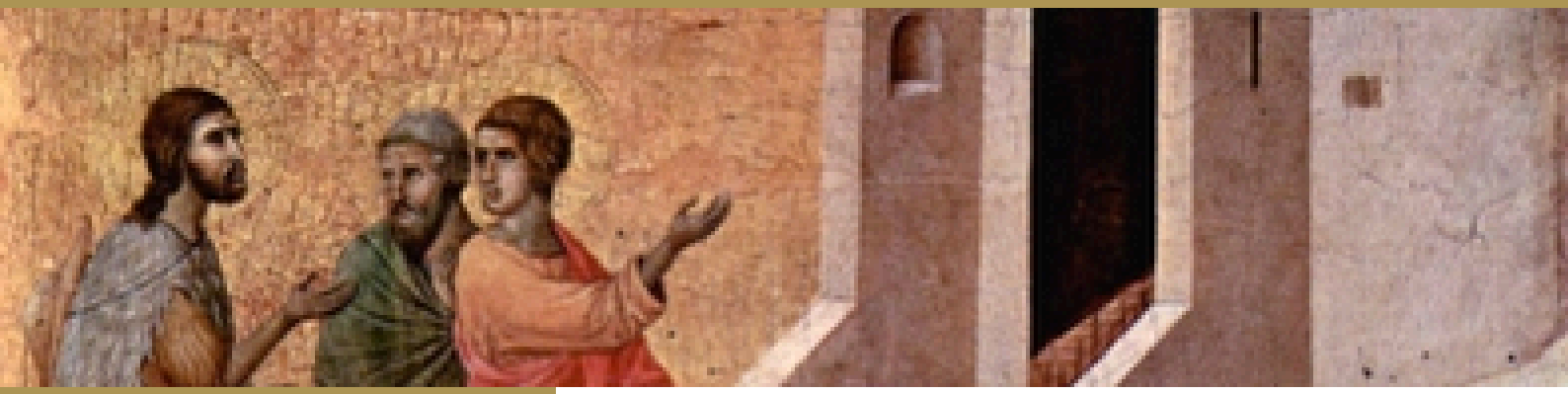
Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

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 baptised, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Fr George Saget, Altar of Keur Moussa Abbey, Senegal

COLLECT

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.



Duccio di Buoninsegna, Road to Emmaus, Museo dell'Opera del Duomo (Siena, Italy)

"There is a certain kind of hurt that can only be comprehended in the context of friendship, over bread broken."
— Drew Jackson
(from Emmaus in Touch the Earth: Poems on The Way)

"And I believe that through something that happens to us, or something we see, or somebody we know--who can ever guess how or when or where?--he offers us, the way he did at Emmaus, the bread of life, offers us new hope, a new vision of light that not even the dark world can overcome."
— Frederick Buechner

The reading from Acts on the Third Sunday of Easter speaks of baptism, with people being baptised in response to the speech of Peter. There are several speeches of Peter in the Book of Acts, as the news of Jesus Christ and the number of Jesus followers grew. In this week's reading Peter stood up with the eleven apostles and addressed the crowd, explaining that the events they were witnessing were the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel. Peter testified about Jesus and how his death and resurrection were also foretold by the prophets, and that Jesus had been raised from the dead by God.

Today you're invited to reflect on your baptism in the light of this Eastertide. How does reading about the early church make you feel about your commitment to your church community?

Love's Baptism *by Emily Dickinson*

I'm ceded, I've stopped being theirs;
The name they dropped upon my face
With water, in the country church,
Is finished using now,
And they can put it with my dolls,
My childhood, and the string of spools
I've finished threading too.

Baptized before without the choice,
But this time consciously, of grace
Unto supremest name,
Called to my full, the crescent dropped,
Existence's whole arc filled up
With one small diadem.

My second rank, too small the first,
Crowned, crowing on my father's breast,
A half unconscious queen;
But this time, adequate, erect,
With will to choose or to reject.
And I choose — just a throne.

To Listen:

From Let Us from This Table Rise by Fred Kaan
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord by Donald E. Fishel

A playlist of music suggestions for the course can be found at https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3pJcG5xA1xzhL2Aolau0Q4?si=582cd1f921ae4fb1