**3rd Sunday of Easter**

“They said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?’ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of the bread. *Luke 24:32–35*

**AS WE GATHER**

Today we see Jesus appear to His disciples on the road to Emmaus. They say afterward that their hearts burned within them as Jesus opened up to them the Scriptures. In the Reading from Acts, those gathered on Pentecost are cut to the heart by Peter’s words. And in the Epistle, Peter speaks of purified souls and hearts. It seems our hearts are being greatly affected by Christ. They are cut, burning, and purified by the Word of Christ.

**PSALM** 116:1-14

**+ Preparation +**

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: God raised Jesus from the dead

**People: and gave Him honor and glory.**

Pastor: We place our faith in Him,

**People: and we place our hope in His resurrection.**

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION** *1 Peter 1:24-25*

Pastor: As human beings, we inherited futile ways and deeds. We were born in sin, and we daily sin much. Though we may try to do what is right, we always fall short, burdened by mistakes and the weight of sin. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to draw near, confess our sins, and long to hear His living and abiding Word.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we have not been pure of heart and mind and soul. We have not obeyed Your truth. We have not loved one another as we should. Forgive us for our futility, renew us by Your resurrection, and lead us back to the lives You want for us, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: “The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” That Word of God tells us clearly that almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die and rise for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. We are purified because of the precious blood of Jesus.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”* (*LSB* 487)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**FIRST READING** Acts 2:14a, 36-41 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** 1 Peter 1:17-25 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 24:13-35 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**NICENE CREED** (*back, inside cover*)

**HYMN** *“Who Are You Who Walk in Sorrow”* (*LSB* 476)

**SERMON *“Word Remaining”***

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Our hearts to heaven and voices raised,

**People: we bring to God our prayer and praise.**

**LORD’S PRAYER, SUNG** (*LSB*,front inside cover)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“What Is This Bread”* (*LSB* 629)

*“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”* (*LSB* 352)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have purified us through this Meal, the very body and precious blood of Christ. We pray that You would strengthen us to love one another as You have loved us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”* (*LSB* 477)

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**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**