

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Easter 3 A

WELCOME: (COMMENTATOR)

Good morning!

On behalf of the Charis Community, I welcome you to our Sunday Mass. All are truly welcome, and we are excited that you are joining us whether it's your first time praying with us or if you've been with us for a while. The worship aid for Mass is on our website, and we will put the address in the chat for you should you like to pull it up to support your prayer.

We are a Eucharistic people, so we invite you to have bread and wine, in whatever form you have it, with you where you are.

We are all familiar with the story of the two travelers on the road to Emmaus. This vivid tale is about both a literal and a spiritual journey. It is the same day as when the women found the tomb empty. The two travelers are walking the seven miles from Jerusalem to their home. At first, they don't recognize Jesus, then they understand the scripture about him, then they recognize him. Finally, they witness to their experience.

This is the exact same journey that each of us takes as disciples. Let us join our voices in song as we begin the journey with Jesus once again.

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed:

“People of Judea, indeed all of you living in Jerusalem.

Let this be known to you, and listen to my words.

Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God

with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs,

which God worked through him in your midst,

as you yourselves know.

Jesus, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God,

was crucified, by the hands of those not under the law.

But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death,

because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

For David says of him:

‘I saw Our God ever before me,

with God at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted;

my flesh, too, will dwell in hope,

because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,

nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption.

You have made known to me the paths of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

“My sisters and brothers, one can confidently say to you

about the patriarch David that he died and was buried,

and his tomb is in our midst to this day.

But since he was a prophet

and knew that God had sworn an oath to him

that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne,

he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ,

that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld

nor did his flesh see corruption.

“God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses.

Exalted at the right hand of God,

he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from God

and poured the Spirit forth, as you see and hear.”

The Word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Beloved:

If you invoke as Father and Mother, the one who judges impartially
according to each one's works,
conduct yourselves with reverence
during the time of your sojourning.

Realizing that you were ransomed
from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors,
not with perishable things like silver or gold,
but with the precious blood of Christ,
as of a spotless unblemished lamb.

Christ was known before the foundation of the world
but revealed in the final time for you.

Through Christ you have come to trust in God
who raised Christ from the dead and into glory,
so that your faith and hope are in God.

The Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

And behold, that very day itself,
two of them were on their way
towards a village seven miles from Jerusalem named Emmaus,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.
And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,
Jesus himself drew near and began journeying with them,
but their eyes were arrested and they did not recognize him.
He asked them,
“What wisdom are you discussing intently with one another
as you are walking?”
They stopped, looking downcast.
One of them, named Cleopas, answering him said,
“Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem
who does not know of the things
that have happened there in these days?”
And he replied to them, “What sort of things?”
They said to him,
“The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,
who was a man who with his powerful deeds and words proved to be a prophet
before God and all the people,
how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over
to be condemned to death and crucified him.
But we were hoping that he would be the one to liberate Israel;
and besides all this,
it is now the third day since all these things happened.
Some women from our group, however, have astonished us:
they were at the tomb early in the morning
and when they did not find his body; they came back and reported

that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who announced that he was alive.

Then some of those with us went to the tomb
and found things just as the women had described,
but they did not see him.”

And he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are!

And how slow of heart to trust all that the prophets have spoken!

Was it not necessary that the Anointed One should suffer these things and enter
into his exalted state?”

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
he unfolded to them the meaning what was said
in all the Scriptures about himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going,
he acted as though he was going on farther.

But they urged him, saying: “Abide with us,
for it is getting toward evening and the day is almost done.”

So he went in to abide with them.

And it happened that when he reclined with them at table,
he took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and began giving it to them.

With that their eyes were opened to understanding, and they recognized and knew
him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other,

“Were not each of our hearts set on fire, within us, while he was speaking to us on
the journey and opened the Scriptures to us?”

So they rose up at that very hour, and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together

the eleven and those gathered together with them who were saying,

“The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!”

The two recounted

what had taken place on the journey

and how he was made known to them in the giving and sharing of the bread and
himself.

The Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: (COMMENTATOR)

God we come to you in this time of sojourning, this time of knowing you and communing with you in the breaking of the bread. Hear our petitions as we lift them up to you with love, hope, and compassion. Our response is **Easter Us, O God.**

For our time of wandering through the dessert to the fertile lands of God's mercy: may this Easter season be a time of reflection, rejoicing, and peace, we pray **Easter Us, O God.**

For those who choose the death of persecution and prejudice: may they be confronted with the truth of God's all-inclusive and unconditional love, we pray **Easter Us, O God.**

That we grow in fellowship with our neighbors all over the world through breaking bread and communing together, we pray **Easter Us, O God.**

For the Earth and all of creation, that we hold sacred our beloved trees, oceans, rivers, and lakes, mountains, desserts, and arctic places, for all creatures and all people, we pray **Easter Us, O God.**

For whom and for what would we like to pray today?. We would very much like to pray with you. We will ask the offsite to begin. We will then do the same here in our worship space, so I invite those here who would like to share prayers to come forward now.

When community prayer has slowed or stopped:

For the prayers stirring in our hearts and those we hold silently. For the prayers in our prayer basket, we pray **Easter Us, O God.**

God, may our hearts be open to you on our journey to Emmaus, may we always desire to know you more through loving our neighbor, forgiving our transgressors, and sojourning from death to life. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Resurrection God, we marvel at the early church's unity;
How they loved one another as you loved them,
How they saw each other's needs and cared for each other.
Empower us with Resurrection love to live the way they have shown us.
Breathe your Holy Spirit on us that we, too, would be of one mind and heart.
We admit that at times we are like Thomas; we have our doubts.
We, too, want to see and touch you.
We, too, have more questions than answers. But we want to believe.
Pour your blessing on us who have not seen and yet have come to believe.
Let your grace fall upon us all.
Let your peace be our peace, this day and every day. **Amen.**