



Living in the Spirit

◆ 3rd Sunday Easter – We are Alive with God

Call to Prayer and Sharing

❖ *Invitation to Prayer - Leader*

Let us begin,
Now, here in this place
With a moment of silence, to reflect,
to focus, to be attentive to ourselves,
to one another, and to the presence of Christ.

May the Lord come and increase our faith. (*reflective pause*)

❖ *Opening Song - If time allows, sing a familiar hymn or song.*

❖ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son"*

The Word of God

❖ *Leader: Let us welcome God's Word into our hearts.*

All: Fill our minds that we may hear your wisdom.
Touch our lips that we may speak your truth.
Hold in our hearts that we may always follow you.
Come now, O Word of God.

From Luke 24:35 – 48 (Jesus appears to the eleven)

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way,
and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this,
he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."
But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.
Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts?
Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.
Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."
And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.
While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed,
he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?"
They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them,
"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you,
that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must
be fulfilled."
Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them,
"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and
that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

The Word of the Lord...

❖ *At the conclusion of the reading, briefly pause for quiet reflection.*

Faith Sharing/Question of the Week (consider sharing on **either** question)

- ❖ **Adult:** When have you had an “Aha!” moment, when you suddenly realized that God was with you?
- ❖ **Mixed Ages:** Name some times when you know Jesus is with you.

For further reflection and discussion

How does this influence and affect what we are doing here at this gathering?

Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow a few minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of 3 or 4 for faith sharing.

- ❖ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*

Litany of Faith

Leader: Christ Jesus, you are known to us in the breaking of the bread.
We are witnesses of your resurrection.
All: Death has no power! We are alive with God!
Leader: Christ Jesus, you have shown us your hands and your feet.
We are witnesses of your resurrection.
All: Death has no power! We are alive with God!
Leader: Christ Jesus, you have opened our hearts and minds to your Word.
We are witnesses of your resurrection.
All: Death has no power! We are alive with God!

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together:
All: Gracious God,
we know that you are with us here,
and we have taken your Word into our hearts.
You call us all to conversion,
we who are here in this place,
and we who are now ready to welcome you into our lives.
We are ready,
we are willing, and we are yours.
So we surrender to you
our aches and longings into one as we pray:
Our Father...

Continue with the Meeting

Final Blessing

Leader: Now let us bless one another:
All: May God bless and keep us, may God smile upon us.
May God show us kindness, fill us with peace.
And may God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
may we always love and serve,
filled with God's Peace. Amen.
Leader: *Conclude the meeting or sing a closing song.*