

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
The Savior Revealed
April 26, 2020

The seven Sundays of Easter celebrate the greatest of all victories—the defeat of sin, death, and the devil by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The theme of victory fills each of the Sundays of Easter and radiates out the joy of the first Easter morning week by week. One Easter hymnwriter exhorts: “Let hymns of praise His triumph tell” (*LSB* 464:3).

“This Joyful Eastertide” [*LSB* 482]

1 This joyful Eastertide, Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow:

Refrain:

Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain;
But now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen!

2 Death's flood has lost its chill, Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill, My passing soul deliver: [Refrain]

3 My flesh in hope shall rest, And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west, Shall wake the dead in number: [Refrain]

Luke 24:13–35

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things

concerning himself. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² 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?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Why couldn't the two disciples on the road to Emmaus recognize Jesus? It was because they were looking with the eyes in their heads rather than the eyes of faith. They remembered what their eyes had seen not what Jesus had told them. “But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.” (Luke 24:16) Jesus did not say do you not recognize me. Rather Jesus began to quote the Scriptures concerning Himself. The only thing that can overcome doubt, worry, and fear is God's Word. “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:10-11) We see the truth through God's Word not by our own understanding. It is when we try to understand things on our own that we succumb to our fears.

What caused the two disciples to know the truth about Jesus? “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” (Luke 24:32) It was from the Scriptures that they understood Jesus had to die to pay for sin and that He would be resurrected. It was from the Scriptures their faith was reaffirmed in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. Just as it is from the Scriptures, “This is my body, this is my blood, for the forgiveness of sins,” that our faith is reaffirmed for the forgiveness of our sins. This is what gives us the confidence to go on despite our fears. Our faith is based on God's power through His Word. Jesus right now is beyond our physical sight but not beyond our hearing. “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*