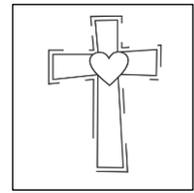


Perley Lutheran Parish
April 26th
3rd Sunday of Easter



Welcome and Announcements

Apology for Wednesday evening – unexpected loss of family pet

Children's challenge

Last day to donate electronically to Food Shelf so it can count towards the matching funds

Continue to send in your offerings

Keep posting on facebook – so fun to see new bikes that some got, Unfortunately new casts that another got, a new big boy bed at one house and the placing of Class of 2020 signs – keeping us connected and in community with each other

Keep in touch – if you need something please reach out

Invite friends to watch!

Opening Responses:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C: **We give you thank, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace and love. Satisfy the thirsty and give us the life only you can give.**

P: To you God, be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen

Prayer of the Day

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19 (Read Responsively)

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. **Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.** The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. **Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"** What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? **I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,** I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. **Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.** O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, **in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

First Reading Acts 2:14a, 36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say ³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷ 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?" ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 24: 13-35, **Glory to you O Lord**

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.^[b] ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth,^[c] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.^[d] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed 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 they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah^[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us^[f] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message:

I see that there are some of you who wear glasses. (If you wear glasses, you might mention that to the children as well.) There was once a little boy named Emmet who couldn't see very well. The funny thing about it was that he didn't know it. In fact, no one knew it -- not his mother or father, his grandmother or grandfather, not even his closest friends knew that Emmet couldn't see very well.

Emmet thought that everything in the world had fuzzy edges because that is the way things looked to him. He thought that all of the other children saw things just as he saw them. As he got older his mother began to wonder why Emmet always sat so close to the TV. His grandfather noticed that when he looked at a book, he held it very close to his face. When Emmet began school, he complained to

the teacher that he couldn't see the words on the chalk board clearly. Finally, everyone began to realize that Emmet needed glasses.

Emmet's parents took him to an eye doctor and the doctor told them, "Emmet needs glasses." In a few short days, Emmet had a brand new pair of glasses. At first, he was afraid that the other kids would make fun of him because he had to wear glasses, but when he put the glasses on, he put his worries behind him. WOW! The world looked so different. Suddenly, Emmet discovered that everything in the world didn't have fuzzy edges. He realized that a tree had leaves. He could read a book without holding it right up to his face. He could see her mother's face clearly, even when she was all the way across the room. It was great.

You may not have trouble with your eyesight, but all of us have difficulty seeing and understanding things at times. Our Bible story today takes place just three days after Jesus was crucified and shows how some of Jesus' disciples had trouble understanding what they had seen.

When Jesus died, his followers thought that he was gone forever. They didn't know what to do. They were very sad. They couldn't see things clearly because they were so mixed up and upset. Two of Jesus' friends were sadly walking back to their home in the village of Emmaus when another traveler joined them on the road. They didn't recognize who it was, but they began to talk to him and tell him all about what had happened to Jesus and how sad they were. When it was evening they arrived at their home and invited the stranger to stay with them and have supper. The sat down to eat and when the traveler broke the bread and blessed it, something happened. It was as if they had put on little Emmet's glasses. Suddenly they saw clearly what they hadn't seen before even though they had been looking right at it most of the day. They realized that the stranger who had joined them on the road was really Jesus - alive and well. After Jesus left them, they ran back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples.

Sometimes we feel confused up and don't see things clearly. When that happens, we need help understanding our lives more clearly. Jesus is with us to help us to do that. He helps us to understand that God loves and that there is nothing to be fear.

Prayer:

Father, we are thankful that as we travel along life's road, Jesus is walking with us and that he will help us see and understand the things that happen in our life. Amen.

Message:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Looking at our Gospel this morning let's put this passage into a little clearer context I would like to remind all us of what had been going on just prior to Jesus appearing to them in this . We first read in Luke's chapter 24 about the women going to the tomb to find it empty. They are reminded by the men in dazzling clothes of what Jesus had predicted and ran to tell the others. The disciples again have their moment of disbelief and Peter runs off to check it for himself. And last week – we looked at this guy who got the unfortunate branding of “doubting” Thomas. Another visit to the disciples of Jesus after his death and resurrection.

We now hear the story of the two who tell us about their journey on the road to Emmaus. They are walking and talking about the death of Jesus, the empty tomb and the women who claim to say that He has risen with a man who has joined them on the road. This man who has joined them begins to point out to them what this “Jesus” fellow had said was going to happen and how all of what they were talking about was pretty much spot on to what they had been told. And still they doubted and told Him, how they had “hoped” that this Jesus – the one who was being called the King of the Jews would be the one to “redeem Israel” and yet they were still questioning what had all happened. It wasn’t until Jesus sat among them and broke bread that they realized that the man that had been walking with them, the man they were discussing what happened was indeed the risen Lord. And when Jesus disappeared, and they thought back about what they had discussed they realized that even then, Jesus was continuing to teach them. Jesus was helping them to see and understand through his reference to the use of scripture and the Word. Jesus was guiding them to what was written to help them believe - almost as though to show them that what was predicted was true and therefore had happened just as it had been said it would.

It’s no secret to any of us that we are a people who love and live for strong and close relationships – that can’t be any more evident to us than it is right now as we continue to be apart and distancing. I know that right now I love that I can glance at pictures of my extended family, or be reminded of times that we have gathered to celebrate a holiday or accomplishment – all of these practices help us to stay more connected and remind us to keep those we love and care for in our hearts.

That’s not much difference I am sure than it was for the disciples – they had been traveling with Jesus now for almost three years. Yes he had appeared to them on occasion, it was now going to be necessary for them to live and work for the love of God, in separation of their friend and leader. Our passage today is a message to help those learn and understand how they can remain close to Him and keep him in our lives and in our hearts. This passage is a reminder of how we can live our lives as disciples while we wait for His return.

First of all, there is the clear and sure reference to scriptures in this passage. Scriptures play an important role in this story just as they should play an important role in our lives. This story in Luke highlights the need for us to study scripture. Jesus starts listing references off “Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.” Let’s be truthful – there are many of us who have become a little passive in our biblical literacy. I’m not naming you as one who is – I am naming all of us – me, included – in the truth that I know I and many of you don’t find or take the time that we perhaps should to immerse ourselves into the understanding of the Word. We know that. We may think the Bible is hard to understand – especially that Old Testament, right?? 😊 Sometimes it feel like what’s the use? Or maybe we may feel the answers in the Bible are “old” compared to the new questions of today and just don’t fit anymore. But there are ways, even little ways that can help us find ourselves immersed – even if it is just for a few minute each day through devotionals. There are so many available today – with all kinds of themes that

one can relate to – so you most definitely can find one that’s just right for you if you look. The Bible – the Word of God – opens up our lives to God’s presence, love, and power and to life changing relationship with Him.

Second, we have the reference to the Lord’s Supper and the sacrament of communion. I don’t know about you but I really miss not having the Lord’s meal all these weeks and long for it to happen again soon – that meal that helps me to keep Jesus and feel Jesus close to me in our daily lives. These three men have been walking and talking and now at the end of their journey the disciples stop and invite their new companion to join them in a meal. Luke writes “When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.” And what happens? Instantly “their eyes were opened, and they recognized him”. Do you remember, that’s exactly what Jesus said when they gathered for their last supper? And guess what, that’s exactly what happens when we are fed in Holy Communion as we gather as brothers and sisters in Christ. It’s through this sacrament – the body and blood of our Lord – that we are being fed and filled and that God is touching our lives. Jesus is present each and every time we are nurtured and fed in our faith and in our relationship with Jesus.

Finally, there is the reference to a road – a walk to Emmaus on a road that is traveled. These two encounter Jesus on a journey, on a walk. We encounter Jesus on our journeys, on our walks. We too can find Jesus as we wander and travel through our lives. We too can expect that he will show up in what we see, what we do, what we encounter, and what we look for. But wait – we need to be open and ready to notice, don’t we? These two men were surprised to realize they saw Jesus and I know there are many times when I am surprised in seeing God at work. It can be something as simple as an act of kindness in a drive through line. It can be seen or felt in a hug, a smile or a “great job” to another. We can see Jesus through our eyes because of our faith and when we do, it’s like looking at those pictures of our loves ones, or remembering those times that we gathered as a family or group of friends to celebrate an accomplishment as I mentioned before. We can see Jesus as we remember the love, and laughter and life that we share with others.

So let us remember – let us be the shining light to others – especially right now in this world of uncertainty and darkness. Let us be the ones who share the love and grace of God with others. Through and in Jesus we can open up our lives to His presence and keep him close to us as we travel and meander down those roads in our own lives. We are so very blessed to be promised the presence of our God on those paths – what a gift that we have been given to never be alone. Let us use those gifts and share those gifts to benefit us, nurture us and our faith but also to benefit and nurture others. My hope for all of us is that we take those daily walks with Jesus – a walk that can help us refocus and refresh our hope in our own lives. Amen

Hymn of the Day: How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,

Thy power throughout the universe displayed;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to them,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to them,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world and all who are in need

Silence

For those who hearts are impassioned with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

For this diverse natural world, help us all to protect all that you have created and provide safety to those places that we call home. May they be places of nurture and protection for those who are there. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, lonely, and desiring healing in body and spirit. Lord, we lift up those that are part of our congregations at Nora and Kirkebo, we lift up those who have joined us through the ability to gather with us on-line and all of those that we now name in our own hearts.....
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Create in our hearts a yearning to rest in your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give us thankful hearts for those who continue to stay healthy through this horrific pandemic, and be with

those who have personal experience in all that this pandemic can bring. Bless all those health care workers and essential employees who continue to serve others while putting themselves in harms' way. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. Let us pray together the prayer that our Lord Jesus taught us...

Lord's Prayer

Our father which 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

Blessing:

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

Sending Hymn: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Now all the vault of heaven resounds,

In praise of love that still abounds

Christ has triumphed! He is living!

Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here:

Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dismissal:

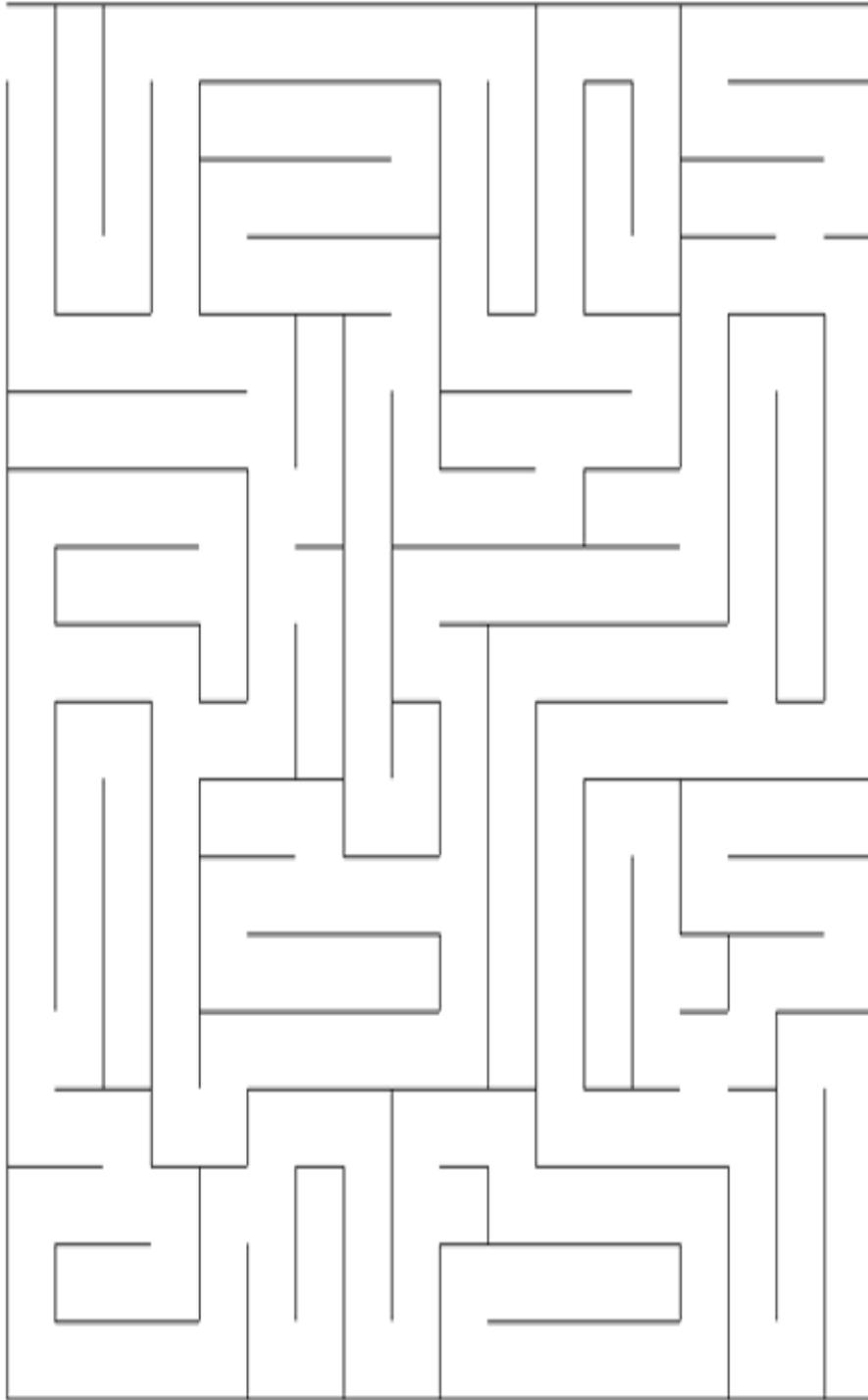
Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Intern Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998 Email: mjenson001@luthersem.edu Web Page: www.perleyparish.org Email: perleyparish@gmail.com





Emmaus

On the Road to Emmaus

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.
Luke 24:31a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 24:13-35 (NIV).



W X Q T T I Z H E G H W Z O R
V O D H L I F G J S E C R O E
Q P E A Y N I Q I H Y Q T G U
C E P N A B J L X D E I A T X
T N Y K D R O I E E S L Y U H
J E I S E O Z K F I L C K G R
I D S V F A L L V I G R R J X
B P K T T A H T V K U U S K E
D E R W W B R E A D N C U F I
U S L O C L E O P A S I F V E
O T D I P H F V S C M F F I A
W T I M E H I C J I O I E C D
J M S M C V E Y K J S E R Z G
E M M A U S E T Y L E D P C O
J V K V I D K H J E S U S R Z

WALKED	JESUS	SUFFER	CRUCIFIED
MOSES	BREAD	BELIEVE	VISITOR
THANKS	FOOLISH	PROPHET	EYES
CLEOPAS	OPENED	VILLAGE	EMMAUS