

## VOLUME LXXII | APRIL 26, 2020 | No. 51

### From the Pews, Mark Matlock

"Open my eyes, that I may see, glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free." "Open My Eyes" Hymn #451

To say that the last five or six weeks has been disruptive likely would be the understatement of the millennia. Plans, hopes, dreams and lives have been brushed aside like autumn leaves as the COVID-19 virus has wreaked havoc on us all.

It's been a dizzying string of No's (hugging, shaking of hands, gathering as a family of faith) and Musts (wash hands, stay home, social distancing). The virus and its tentacles have rattled us to our cores.

But as the New Testament does frequently, it provides a beacon in the darkness with today's Scripture verse, Luke 24:13-35. It's the story of two of Jesus' followers walking on the road to Emmaus, lamenting the Messiah's crucifixion.

They are heartbroken about Christ's death, and bewildered by the tale Mary Magdalene shared about visiting Jesus' tomb that morning and being told by angels that He is alive. Suddenly a stranger appears to them seemingly ignorant of all that has happened. Not knowing that the person in their midst is indeed Jesus, they turn and give him the "Dude-where-have-you-been?" speech.

Right now, some of us might be feeling just like those followers. Our lives have been changed by a seismic event and much with which we are familiar has been altered. How can we cope? How can we go on?

Again as the New Testament does frequently, it offers hope through Jesus. He listens and then admonishes them. "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?"

Later, they invite the "stranger" to stay with them that night. At the evening meal, the stranger blesses the bread, breaks it and gives it to them. At that moment, they recognize Jesus and He vanishes.

I think one of the messages that we as followers of Christ can take from this scripture in April 2020 is that God is always with us. God never promises that we won't have obstacles, that we won't encounter disappointments or that we won't suffer. Many can attest to such challenges.

But God does promise that he is on the walk with us ... always. Even if it's in the middle of the road ... or in the middle of a pandemic, God walks with us.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, April 26th, 2020 | online, 11:15a | Third Sunday of Easter



## Prayer of **Preparation**

"We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other. We know Him in the breaking of bread, and we know each other in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone anymore. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship."

- Dorothy Day, The Long Loneliness

# Gathering and Preparing for God's Word

Prelude, Festive Trumpet Tune	Germar
Welcome and Announcements	
Sentences of Scripture	
Hymn #238, Thine is the Glory	MACCABEUS
See hymn sheet.	

Morning Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

## Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination New Testament Lesson, Acts 2:42-47 Time for Children Gospel Lesson, Luke 24:13-35 Homily, "When Jesus is a Stranger"

Solo, I've Been Changed Affirmation of Faith, The Nicene Creed We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

Prayer of Dedication Hymn #252, Day of Arising

Charge and Benediction Postlude, Thine is the Glory

Ben Dorr. *preaching* Mary Kathleen Duncan, Lauren Slingerland, Leigh Stuckey, *liturgists* Nancy Smith, organist Mark Kemp, Judy McKinney, vocalists



## Responding to God's Word

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

- God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
- begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
- through him all things were made.
- For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
- For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
- he suffered death and was buried.
- On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
- he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
- He will come again in glory to judge the living
- and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

See hymn sheet.

arr. Whitworth

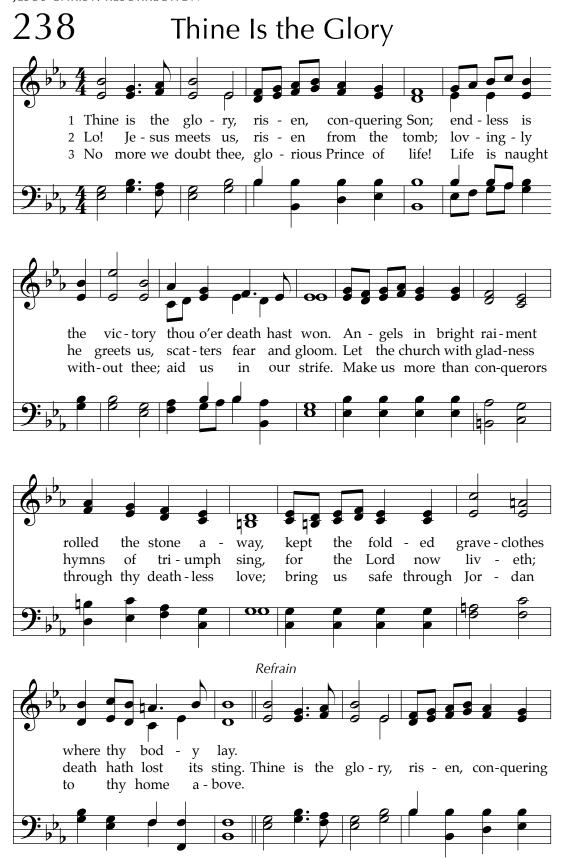
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## Leading Worship this Morning

Aspaas

JESUS CHRIST: RESURRECTION

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This Easter text, first in French and later in English, was written to fit the music, a chorus created for Handel's oratorio Joshua and moved to Judas Maccabeus in 1751. It grew widely popular following its use at the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1948.

TEXT: Edmond Louis Budry, 1884; trans. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923, alt. MUSIC: George Frederick Handel, 1748

JUDAS MACCABEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5 with refrain

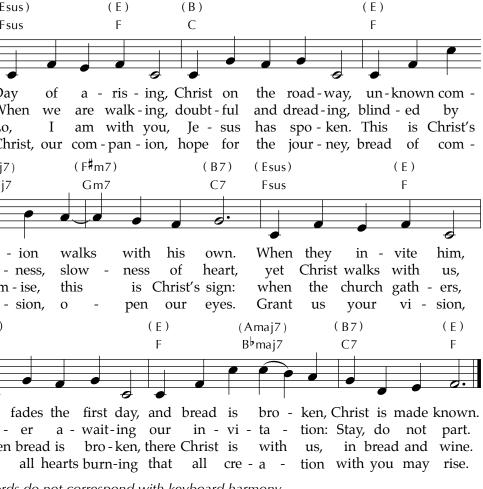


**JESUS CHRIST: RESURRECTION** 252 Day of Arising Capo 1: (Esus) (E) Fsus F C 1 Day 2 When we are walk-ing, doubt-ful and dread-ing, blind - ed by 3 Lo, 4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney, bread of com -(F<sup>#</sup>m7) (Amaj7) B<sup>b</sup>maj7 Gm7 C7 pan - ion walks with his own. sad - ness, slow ness of heart, prom - ise, this pas - sion, o pen our eyes. -(B) (E) С . as ev - er a - wait-ing our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part. when bread is bro-ken, there Christ is with us, in bread and wine. set

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Based on Luke 24:13–35, this text tells how Christ walked with two dejected believers on the way to Emmaus. This journey reminds us of our own spiritual wanderings, and the revelation of the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread gives us hope for such an encounter in worship.

TEXT: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1996 MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk, 1996 Text © 1996 Augsburg Fortress Music © 2003 GIA Publications, Inc.



RAABE 5.5.5.4.D