

Third Sunday of Easter, Year A

Color: White

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Acts 2:14a, 36–41](#) (Peter preaches God’s promise through baptism)

[Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19](#) (I love the Lord; I will lift up the cup of salvation)

[1 Peter 1:17–23](#) (Born anew through the living word of God)

[Luke 24:13–35](#) (An encounter with the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus)

Themes: Resurrection, Baptism, Communion, New Birth, Holy Spirit

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn’s association with the morning’s scriptures or themes.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (HYFRYDOL)	Luke, Communion
Abide With Me (EVENTIDE)	Luke
Baptized in Water (BUNESSAN)	1 Peter, Baptism
Blessed Assurance (ASSURANCE)	1 Peter
Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing (TRURO)	Luke, Acts
Cuando el Pobre (When the Poor Ones) (EL CAMINO).....	Luke
Day of Arising (BUNESSAN)	Luke, Communion
Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face (LANGRAN; MORECAMBE; PENITENTIA)	Luke, Communion
I Come With Joy (DOVE OF PEACE)	Luke, Communion
Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee (ST. AGNES).....	1 Peter
Just a Closer Walk With Thee (CLOSER WALK).....	Luke
Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (Linstead).....	Acts, Communion
Live In Charity (UBI CARITAS).....	1 Peter, Communion
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN)	1 Peter
Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (LEMMEL)	Luke
With Water Freely Flowing (MERLE’S TUNE)	1 Peter, Baptism
Wonder of Wonders (PENTECOST)	Acts, Baptism

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

Abide With Me - M..... Luke
EVENTIDE/ Brian Hanson, arr.
© 2015, Choristers Guild, CGA 1449
SATB, Piano

Become to Us the Living Bread - E
.....Luke, Communion
alt. text: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing"
Melchior Vulpius/Donald Busarow, arr.
© 1998, MorningStar Music, 50-4406
SAB, Keyboard, opt. C-Instrument

Day of Arising - M..... Luke, Com.
Carl Schalk
© 1999, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-5867-0
SATB, Organ

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ - E.....Acts, Com.
LINSTEAD/Bradley Ellingboe, arr.
© 1985, Concordia Publishing, 98-2715
SATB, Organ, Flute, opt. Percussion

On Emmaus' Journey: Festival Setting - M..... Luke
HOLY MANNA/John Ferguson, arr.
© 2001, GIA Publications, G-5681
SATB, Congregation, Organ, Brass (4)

O Living Bread from Heaven - E..... Luke, Com.
WEDLOCK/Gary Matheny, arr.
© 1987, GIA Publications, G-2960
2-Part Mixed, Organ

Shepherd of Souls - M..... Luke
Alfred Fedak
© 2002, Selah Publishing Co., 410-421
SAB, Organ

Stay With Us - M Luke
Egil Hovland
© 1999, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-5882-3
SATB, Organ

Ubi Caritas - M..... 1 Peter, Com.
Bob Moore
© 2018, GIA Publications, G-9504
SAB, Piano

Where Charity and Love Prevail - E 1 Peter, Com.
Richard D. Erickson
© 2001, Kjos Music, 6306
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard (opt. Percussion)

-- youth and children --

I Love the Lord - M Psalms
Hank Beebe
© 1978, Hinshaw Music, HPC-7007
2-Part, Keyboard

Wade In the Water -E Acts, Baptism
African-American Spiritual/Max Exner, arr.
© 1991, Choristers Guild, CGA 572
Unison, Piano

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

Loving God, it is through your goodness that we have this Bread and Wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. In the sharing of this Bread, may we know your resurrection presence, and may we know that, in touching all bread, all matter, it is You we touch.

— PETER MILLAR, from *Iona Prayer Book*

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*We saw a stranger yesterday,
We put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place,
And, with the sacred name
of the triune God,
He blessed us and our house,
Our cattle and our dear ones.
As the lark says in her song:
Often, often, often, goes Christ
in the stranger's guise.*

— Celtic rune of hospitality

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“Let the preacher tell the truth . . . the comic truth of the Gospel, which is that it is into the depths of [God's] absence that God [is made] present in such unlikely ways and to such unlikely people that old Sarah and Abraham and maybe when the time comes even . . . you and I laugh till the tears run down our cheeks. And finally let [the preacher] preach this overwhelming of tragedy by comedy, of darkness by light, of the ordinary by the extraordinary, as the tale that is too good not to be true because to dismiss it as untrue is to dismiss along with it that catch of the breath, that beat and lifting of the heart near to or even accompanied by tears, which I believe is the deepest intuition of truth that we have.”

— FREDERICK BUECHNER, *Telling The Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy & Fairy Tale*, 1977

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CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Psalm 116 and Micah 6:6-8)

Leader: I love the Lord because God hears my voice.

**People: When I am alone, God is there;
when I am lost, God will not leave me.**

Leader: When I call to God, the Lord listens to me.

People: I love the Lord because God hears my voice.

Leader: What shall I give to the Lord in thanksgiving for God's steadfast love?

People: I will worship the Lord with all that I am.

Leader: I will live in gratitude and generosity.

People: I will do justice and act with kindness.

Leader: And I will walk by faith with humility and curiosity.

**People: I love the Lord because God hears my voice
and calls me to live as I was created to be.**

— F. TIMOTHY MOORE*

GATHERING PRAYER

Resurrected Lord, as you walked with disciples on the way to
Emmaus, walk with us. Speak in ways that inspire our hearts.
Grant us hope where we despair and faith where we doubt.
And as we worship you this day give us the eyes of faith to
see your presence among us. Open us to your Spirit, AMEN.

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*You raise me up to new life;
You dry my tears, and
guide my feet on straight paths.
Now, I walk hand in hand with Love
in the land of the Awakened ones.*

— NAN C. MERRILL, from Psalm 116, *Psalms for Praying*

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A CONFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in God, who created the world with abundant goodness and wondrous variety and who made each person in the image of God.

We believe in Jesus the Christ, who became human like us in order that we might become like Christ.

We believe in Jesus' teachings, which offer abundant life:

Love your neighbor as yourself,

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Forgive others without counting their faults,

Do not judge, but be merciful,

Return evil with good,

Ask, seek, knock, and never give up praying in hope,

Treat others as you wish to be treated.

We believe that Jesus died unjustly on a cross,

and that God resurrected him to new life,

for in God life is the final word, not death,

hope is everlasting, and love conquers all.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, which is present in the Church

and working in the world in subtle and subversive ways to bring forth

God's peace and justice.

We believe in the power of prayer,

the forgiveness of sins,

the unconditional love of God,

and life everlasting. AMEN.

[Following the confession of faith invite the congregation to share the Peace of Christ.]

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

The congregation is invited to share the peace with one another.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God of love, like the disciples walking with Jesus to Emmaus, we have learned that to hope is to open ourselves to heartache, for life rarely turns out as expected, and people often disappoint us. Teach us to grieve these losses, to let go of our expectations, so that you may plant seeds of resurrection. Help us to live in the pain of the moment, so that when we are ready, a new day will arrive. Death and resurrection, death and resurrection, you are constantly making new life out of death. Enable us to believe. Empower us to live like believers. In the Resurrected One, we pray. AMEN.

BENEDICTION

Friends, as you go back into the world,
Welcome the stranger,
Rejoice in God's good news,
And overcome evil with good.
And may the love of God,
The grace of our Resurrected Lord,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit,
Walk with you every step of the way. AMEN.

*Thanks to Timothy Moore for his contributions to this week's prayers and liturgy.

Warren Howell, editor