

Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020-11:00 a.m.

### GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

#### GREETING AND PSALM OF PRAISE

We are so glad you have chosen to worship with us today at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Dallas. The Psalmist says that our hearts are made glad when we go into the house of the Lord. Today, your houses, are the Lord's house. Enjoy the holy ground upon which you stand. Whether you have attended worship with us in the past, or you have, in these new days, clicked the button on your mouse or tapped your screen, we are blessed to have you worshipping with us.

We invite you to visit our website at [www. Eastminsterdallas.org](http://www.Eastminsterdallas.org) or our Facebook page and get to know us a bit better. As with most media sources, we need to do some updating on ours, so, check it out, and then come back and check it out again. Just as the Lord welcomes all, so too do we. Take a moment, wherever you are and share the peace of Christ with one another

#### \*THE PASSING OF PEACE

May the peace of our risen Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Now, as we prepare our hearts for worship, hear the words of the Psalmist: I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD. Praise the LORD.

#### VOLUNTARY

*Come, Let Us Sing*  
*Melody Davis*

David Paxton

#### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 246 *Christ is Alive*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

As we are called together to confess our shortcomings before God and one another, we remember and trust that God is merciful, and in that mercy we now place ourselves as we confess and claim, with thanksgiving, the forgiveness that has been gifted to us through Jesus Christ.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace, have mercy on us. At one glance, you can see our complete lives. You see us giving our best and giving our worst, our enthusiasm and our waning, our courage and our cowardice, our cleverness and our inadequacies. In one holy glance, you see everything. Merciful Lord, we hand ourselves over to you and ask forgiveness. With Jesus as our open door, may we live to the glory of your name, now and evermore. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

In a world filled with news, this is our best news: Jesus lives among us to rescue and heal. Each of us is unique and precious and we can dare live with the sublime confidence of the children of God that says: we loved, forgiven, and blessed to be God's blessing to others. Thanks be to God!

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jesus our Guide, you explained the scriptures and revealed yourself to the disciples at Emmaus. Now, by your Spirit, enlighten our minds to understand their witness and ignite our hearts to receive, embrace and share your Word. Amen

### EPISTLE READING (*Pew Bible, page 232*)

1 Peter 1:17-23

<sup>17</sup>If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. <sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

### ANTHEM

*Resurrection Chorus*  
*Sanctuary Choir*

Arr. Jack Schader

### NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 90*)

Luke 24: 13-35

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>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?" <sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>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 took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

\*HYMN 452 *Open the Eyes*

### SERMON

*Is, Not Was*

Sherry Holloman

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Heidelberg Catechism* and *Our World Belongs to God*

**We believe that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is our God and Father because of Christ his Son. Nothing will separate us from his love.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh. He is fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Spirit of God and born of the Virgin Mary, sent by God to reconcile the world to himself. We believe that Jesus, in the events of his earthly life, made present in deed and in word the coming rule of God. We believe that through Christ's death on the cross, he took on the burden of our sins. Thanks be to God! He walked out of the grave, the Lord of life! He conquered sin and death. He ascended in triumph. He hears our prayers, pleads our cause, and rules the world.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit was given to the church. Jesus stays with us in the Spirit, who renews our hearts, moves us to faith, leads us in the truth, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant.**

**We believe that the church is sent with the gospel of the kingdom to make disciples of all nations, to feed the hungry, and to proclaim the assurance that in the name of Christ there is forgiveness of sin and new life for all who repent and believe—to tell the news that our world belongs to God. Amen**

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

O Christ, as we enjoy your company, we remember that there are many people who are alone or rejected. We think of those whose ageing, illness or family circumstances mean that they feel as though no-one is truly with them. May we see more clearly where they are, O Christ, and be loyal friends to them in your name. If they are isolated because of any form of prejudice, looking longingly at the lives of those who have company and communities of support: Show us the beauty of all humanness, O Christ, and call us to draw near in love. Give to us, your people, the courage and authenticity to share together the questions we have about life and faith. Help us to create an environment where honesty is possible, so that we genuinely discuss the tougher issues together. Lord, you come to us in unexpected places, in a crowded room, in a journey on a dusty road, in conversation, in the stillness. You come in the midst of our doubt, our fear, our sorrow. You come in the power of the resurrection; no pain and suffering is unknown to you. You bring us peace, and we pray for the places where there is no peace: Countries torn by war; people seeking homes; the marginalized facing violence. You bring peace to the tensions and conflicts within us: to the regrets, the failure, the broken relationships, the lost friendships. You bring peace, for you are a friend to us: when we are alone, when we are lonely, unseen, yet you are there. You bring us peace and we pray that we too may become peacemakers. You have heard the prayers of our hearts and lips as we have lifted them to you, and so, in your way and in your time, answer those prayers. Then, when we meet you on all the many roads of our lives, may we recognize the wonder of the gift given us through your resurrection and with thankful hearts, share your gift of salvation with others. This we pray with the words taught us by our Lord: **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. Amen.**

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Consider the lilies...look at the birds of the air! Jesus pulls our attention away from our worries about scarcity, and turns our gaze toward the beautiful gifts of God's creation, signs of abundance and grace surrounding us always. Trust may be difficult for us, as it was for those early disciples, yet we bring our gifts this morning with the assurance of God's care for us every morning of our lives. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*I Know My Redeemer Lives*  
*Sanctuary Choir*

John Wilson

\*RESPONSE 605 *Praise to God the Father*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you, God for each new morning with its light, for rest and shelter of the night. Thank you for health and food, for love and friends. Thank you, God for everything goodness you send. Amen

**GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD**

\* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDECTION

As we travel on this wonderfully mysterious journey called life, we need to hear and be the voice of Jesus. We need Jesus as our companion along the way, even as we are companions one for another. We are called to show the warmth of hospitality in ways that help others along their life's journey. As we walk together:

May God, who comes to us in the things of this world, bless our eyes and be in our seeing.

May Christ, who looks upon us with deepest love, bless our eyes and widen our gaze.

May the Spirit, who perceives what is and what may yet be, bless our eyes and sharpen our vision.

May the sacred Three-in-One bless your eyes and cause you to see.

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN 839 *Blessed Assurance*