

APRIL 26, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Our eyes have been opened to see the Lord.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	The first converts
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:17-23	A call to holy living
Wednesday	Matthew 8:5-13	Jesus heals a centurion servant
Thursday	Matthew 9:2-7	Jesus heals a paralytic
Friday	Matthew 14:13-21	Feeding the five thousand
Saturday	Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Christ the shepherd

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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?” **Luke 24:32 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, may your word and the community of faith open our eyes and our hearts to your living presence within us and among us through the risen Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus had their eyes opened to you through the breaking of bread, open our eyes now with thankful hearts for this meal. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of hope open your eyes to the presence of the risen Lord and fill you with joy.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Open the Eyes of
My Heart*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When and where have you felt God’s presence?
- Have you ever had an experience where you didn’t recognize the impact until later? Explain.
- What Bible story or Bible verse or song helps you feel the presence of God?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 24:13-35.

We have within us the desire for the divine in our lives. As Christians, we want to see Jesus as Lord. We want to have our hearts burning within us. That may have happened weeks ago on Easter Sunday in worship with all the pageantry, song, and community gathered together to “break bread” (v. 35). Interestingly, for the disciples on the road to Emmaus, even though they had the risen Lord with them and he was teaching them the Scriptures, it was not until the breaking of the bread that he was revealed to them and they acknowledged that their hearts had been burning within them. Perhaps the sense of the divine in our lives is best recalled in retrospect. We are not in control of the divine in our lives. God is. The Holy Spirit uses human stories, the Bible, and the breaking of bread in community to create the burning in our hearts that we want to recall and talk about again and again. This is what happened to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. When has your heart burned with the sense of God’s presence in your life?

Pray: **Creator God, give us eyes to see and hearts that burn for the joy of your presence through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Peter tells the first converts to “Repent, and be baptized” (Acts 2:38a). Baptism is not something we often talk about in our daily lives. If you know of someone who has been thirsting to know about baptism, be willing to have that conversation and seek out the help of others, if needed.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The acronym **ACTS** (**A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, **S**upplication) was introduced during Lent as a way to experience prayer in our daily lives. Add a little extra movement to your prayers this week and make the shape of each letter as you pray: (**A**) I praise God for..., (**C**) forgive me for..., (**T**) I thank you for..., (**S**) I pray for ..., and finish with amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org