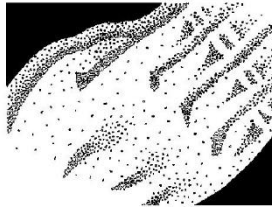
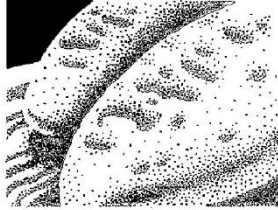


Messiah Lutheran Church

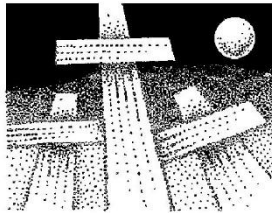
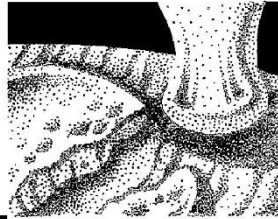
GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE

**HE TOOK
BREAD**



**GAVE
THANKS**

BROKE IT



& THEY RECOGNIZED

HIM

LUKE 24:30-31

✠ Holy Communion ✠
Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font

P: Merciful God,

We thank you for the waters of creation
that nourish us.

P: Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Jesus Christ,

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
Lead us to drink of those waters that gush up to eternal life.

P: Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy Spirit,

As once you descended upon our Christ and us at Holy Baptism,
descend upon us once again and fill us with the breath of peace.

P: Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

C: **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!.....LBW 144



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; bring flow'rs of
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -



tri - umph of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
song to strew his way; let all the world re - joice and say:
life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
day with one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872-1955, alt.
Music: GEB. OBT. SEI. GOTT, Melchior Vulpinus, c. 1570-1615

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



B Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
 hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
 might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
 has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

A: A Reading from Acts:

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 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.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



I will call up - on the name of the LORD.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



- ¹ I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
- ² **for the LORD has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called.**
- ³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.
- ⁴ **Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray you, | save my life." R**
- ¹² How shall I re- | pay the LORD
for all the good things God has | done for me?
- ¹³ **I will lift the cup | of salvation
and call on the name | of the LORD.**
- ¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God's people.
- ¹⁵ **Precious in your | sight, O LORD,
is the death | of your servants.**
- ¹⁶ O LORD, truly I | am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from
my bonds.
- ¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and call upon the name | of the LORD. R**
- ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God's people,
- ¹⁹ **in the courts of | the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah! R**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

A: A Reading from First Peter:

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Our hearts burn within us* while you open to us the scriptures.

C: Repeat the Alleluias.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now on that same day two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles 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. 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, 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. 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 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 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON Pastor Amme

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

***With High Delight Let Us Unite*LBW 140**

1 With high de - light let us u - nite in
 2 True God, he first from death has burst forth
 3 Let prais - es ring: give thanks, and bring to
 songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all
 in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now
 Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by
 bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To
 van - quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And
 word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So
 set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to
 yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says
 shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and
 all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
 he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.
 death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–1599; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt.
 Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune
 Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
**He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

After each petition:

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.
Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you.*

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

ANTHEM

Peace I Leave With You.....Donald Moore

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung



☩ Let the vine- yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles- ing. Gath- er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be

fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

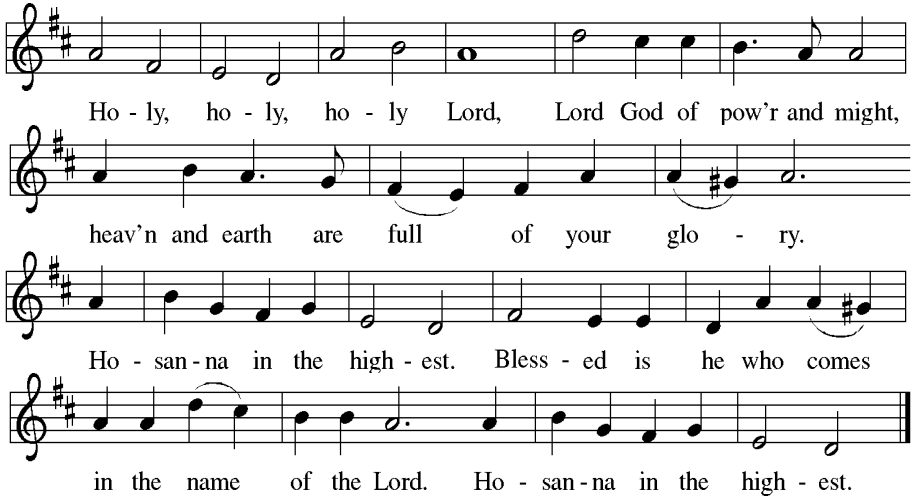
C: Merciful God,
 accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
 You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
 when we will hunger and thirst no more.
 Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
 that goodness and mercy may follow us
 and bless the world you love.
 In the name of Jesus,
 Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter, and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

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 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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

**The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
The communicant may say: Amen**

COMMUNION HYMN

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing..... LBW 210



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;
you have conquered in the fight,
you have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall;
you have opened paradise,
and your saints in you shall rise.
Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
newborn souls in you to be.
Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Text: office hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-1868, alt.
Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, Kirchengeseng, 1566

Stand

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Holy One,
 through this meal you have made your home among us
 and are making all things new.
 Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
 to love our enemies,
 and to bring your healing to the nations.
 In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
 Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
 and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
 † bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN *This Joyful Eastertide*

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
 2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
 3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
 slum - ber till trump from east to west shall
 riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

sprung to life this mor - row.
 wake the dead in num - ber.
 pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
 slum - ber till trump from east to west shall
 riv - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

sprung to life this mor - row.
 wake the dead in num - ber.
 pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848-1934
 Music: Dutch folk tune, 17th cent.; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

G: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Charles Luppert, Larry & Donna Britton, Rhonda Koch, Sylvia McCarty, Larry Solomon; **Lay Assist.:** Susan Bryan; **Comm. Asst.:** Fred Harbaugh; **Acolyte:** Weston Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Rita Strickler, Carol Winter; **Greeters/Presenters:** Mary Schultz, Ron Yeagle
Cantor: Virginia Amme; **Flower Delivery:** Susan Bryan

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of William and Jean Reasner's 61st wedding anniversary by John and Brett Reasner, Rhonda Hopkins and Raven Cooley.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Kirstin Gist's birthday and Jared and Kirstin Gist's 10th wedding anniversary with love from Yvonne and Bob Gist.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name and information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

Today is your last opportunity to get tickets for the **TABER MUSEUM TOUR on Sunday, April 26 (12:15-2:15 p.m.)** ... to see historic art-works, Victorian dresses, antique implements, toy trains ... all for only \$6.50 per person. Tickets available in the narthex AND lunch in Shaheen Hall for all "tourists" following the Service

Tickets are also available (today and April 26) for the "**WOMEN'S BANQUET**" on Tuesday, May 5 (6:00 p.m.) in Shaheen Hall. It is a "red-white-blue" night with table decorations, a quilt display, and special music geared to America's 250th Anniversary. Ticket prices are ... Adults - \$13.00; Children (age 6 to 12) - \$6.00; Children (age 5 and under) - Free. A challenge ... wear something "patriotic"!

We are looking for some help to paint Pastor Kliner's office before he arrives. If you are available to help between **8:30 and noon on April 23rd or the 24th** please contact Dave Bausinger 570-772-4500 to let him know when you are available. You don't need to be there both days. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

The Way of Resurrection

In some Bibles the subheading for today's gospel reading is "The Road to Emmaus." Although this is a suitable description, we could also call it "The Way to Emmaus." On the road or way to Emmaus, two disciples encounter the risen Christ. Notice that as Jesus accompanies them, he meets them where they are, holds their heartache, questions their assumptions, challenges their perspectives, and ultimately guides them deep into God's word. All this happens on the way!

Only one of the two companions on the way with Jesus is named: Cleopas. Why is the other disciple's identity a mystery? Luke may be using a clever storytelling device, one designed for readers to see themselves as part of the narrative. In that case, you may be the unnamed disciple in this Jesus story! (Aren't we all disciples on the way, accompanied by Jesus on the journey of Easter faith?)

Eventually, after Jesus blesses and breaks bread at a meal, the two disciples finally recognize him. Their hearts are kindled with faith and activated by the word of God encountered on the way with Jesus. It is no surprise that they hit the road again, racing back to Jerusalem to tell the others what just happened on the way.

From the very beginning, the way of faith in Christ has been a movement of resurrection promise. This movement has never stopped sharing the grace and love of God with everyone it encounters along the way. We are called to join this movement, with all our heartaches, assumptions, and misunderstandings. We are not people with all the answers, but sojourners or pilgrims on the way.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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