



## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

A reading from Acts.

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven,  
raised his voice and addressed 「the crowd」:

<sup>36</sup>“Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty  
that God has made him both Lord and Messiah,  
this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>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?”

<sup>38</sup>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.

<sup>39</sup>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.”

<sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying,  
“Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

<sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized,  
and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Word of God, word of life.            *or*            The word of the Lord.

**PSALMODY: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19**

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### FIRST READING

This is a continuation of Peter’s address from last Sunday and speaks to the reaction of those who heard him. It is straightforward, but the reader may want to segment the thoughts of the final paragraph in this manner: verse 37; 38-39; 40; 41. Treating those five verses as four separate thoughts may help both reader and hearer better follow the sequence. Then help the assembly to hear Peter preaching it!

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

A reading from First Peter.

<sup>17</sup>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.

<sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct  
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 trust and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup>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.

<sup>23</sup>You have been born anew,  
not of perishable but of imperishable seed,  
through the living and enduring word of God.

Word of God, word of life.            *or*            The word of the Lord.

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### SECOND READING

The reading is brief but not simple. Though they are not included, the reader will be helped by reading the first two verses of chapter 1 before attempting to come to grips with the appointed verses. Deliver the author's injunction slowly and with care. Help the assembly hear the grace and peace the author intends to convey.

## GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day  
two <sup>†</sup>disciples<sup>†</sup> 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. ▶

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### GOSPEL *Cleopas = KLEE-uh-pus*

Bringing the sound of weariness and deep sadness to the voices of the disciples on the road will provide a meaningful contrast to their resurrected spirits and renewed energy in verses 32 and 33. Slow the delivery of their recollections in verses 18-24. Allow the modest raising of hopes in verses 22 and 23 to be dashed by the acknowledgment in 24 that “they did not see him.” The reader will enrich the experience for the hearer by telling the story as though unaware of how it ends.

<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.

The gospel of the Lord.