

Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
Sunday, April 26, 2020 – Third Sunday of Easter  
Order of Worship

*Seasonal Theme:*

Jesus is out of the grave and alive, and He is with us.

*Theme for the day:*

Recognizing the risen Christ in our midst, and sharing this with others.

*Call to worship:*

Stay with Christ, and he will stay with you. Listen for God, and God will speak. Seek the Spirit, and the Spirit will be revealed; for the Spirit is already here, inviting us to stay.

*Prayer of Illumination:*

Eternal God, we are here yearning to know you more fully. Stay with us as we worship on this day. You opened the meaning of scripture to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and set their hearts ablaze. By the power of your Spirit, kindle our hearts as we hear your word, that we may receive you with joy. Amen.

*Readings from Scripture:*        **Luke 24:13-35**        **1 Peter 1:17-23**

*[texts of Scripture follow the service, beginning on page 2]*

*Message:*    **LOOK AGAIN!**

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Without the breath of life, we are nothing; and without the word of God, we are dust. Let us offer our lives and offering to God (which you may send by mail, if you wish).*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:*

Almighty God, by your grace, accept the fruit of our labors and the offering of our lives. Let us be a sacrifice of thanksgiving in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

*Blessing and Benediction*

Look again. Be genuine in love. Be obedient to the truth and purify your soul. Stay firm with the grace...

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Scripture Readings – April 26, 2020

*first reading – LUKE 24:13-35*

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. 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?’ 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our

group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 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?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*second reading – 1 PETER 1:17-23*

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. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 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.

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

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*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*