



# THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

## **A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS:**

We extend a warm welcome from Bethel Presbyterian Church!  
We invite you to participate in signing the Friendship Folders adding your name  
and address and if you desire a church newsletter or a pastoral call.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say "sins...sin against us"  
rather than "debts..." or "trespasses..."

Prayer requests can be noted on the cards provided in the pew racks  
and placed in the offering plate.

**The Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**April 23, 2023 - 11:00 AM**

*\* Indicates congregation standing if able.*  
*Congregational responses indicated in bold.*

**GATHERING AND GREETING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

*Please sign the Friendship Pad found in your pew, passing it down the pew then back.*

Prelude

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: Followers of Jesus,

by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

**P: Alleluia!**

L: By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

**P: Alleluia!**

L: By his love we are made new in the living and enduring  
Word of God.

**P: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

Prayer of Invocation:

Let us pray:

Almighty God,

Jesus, our risen Lord, was made known to the disciples  
in the breaking of the bread.

Open the eyes of our hearts that we may recognize his presence,  
and with his disciples cry, "The Lord has risen, indeed!"

Through Christ, who lives and reigns with you  
in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind de-light,  
For the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

*For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;  
for the great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.*

\* Call to Confession

God judges all people impartially according to their deeds.  
Trusting in God’s love in Jesus Christ,  
let us confess our sins before God and one another.

\* Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, our world is filled with corruption:  
power disguises itself as truth;  
convenience masquerades as goodness; selfish pleasure imitates love.  
We confess to you, O God,  
that we have been caught in the web of the world’s sin.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
save us from these deceptions and free us for glad obedience,  
that we may see the joy of Jesus’ resurrection  
and receive the promise of everlasting life. Amen.**

\* Sung Response No. 573 “**CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN**”  
*Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a-gain.*

\* Declaration of Forgiveness

Followers of Jesus:

God has promised salvation to us, to our children,  
and to all who are near and far.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

\* Sung Response No. 591 “**HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!**” (*Refrain*)

*Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!*

*Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!*

*Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah!*

*Hal-le-lu-yah! Hal-le-lu-yah!*

## THE WORD

Children’s Moment

Choral Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Lord, you opened the meaning of the Scriptures  
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 proclaimed,  
that we may receive you with joy. Amen.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Psalter Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (... *Recovery from Illness*) Pg. 533

Epistle Acts 2:14a, 36-41 (*Peter Addresses the Crowd*) Pg. 111

Gospel Luke 24:13-35 (*The Walk to Emmaus*) Pg. 84

Sermon

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

\* Affirmation of Faith

Hymnal Pg. 37, Sections 1-2

*Jesus portion of The Brief Statement of Faith, 1991,  
The Book of Confessions, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

**In life and death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:**

**preaching good news to the poor  
and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed  
and blessing the children,  
healing the sick  
and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts,  
forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,**

**Jesus was crucified,  
suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised Jesus from the dead,**

**vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## Prayers of the People

*(With the words "God of resurrection"  
you are invited to respond "**hear our prayer.**")*

Let us unite our hearts in prayer, saying,  
God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the church throughout the world,  
that as we celebrate the great fifty days of Easter  
we may renew our faith and strengthen our witness in Jesus' name.  
God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For pastors, teachers, and ministers,  
that they recognize the risen Christ in Word and Sacrament  
and lead your church with wisdom, humility, and courage;  
God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the governments of the world and its leaders,  
that they may resist the corruption of sin and serve the common good;  
God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our planet Earth,  
that all people may be good stewards of its resources  
and share in its abundance;  
God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the poor and the stranger,  
that they may receive a place of refuge and hope,  
and that the church may offer the hospitality  
the first disciple offered to Jesus on the road to Emmaus;  
God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and those in distress,  
that they may find healing for their pain  
and be restored to fullness of life;  
God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our neighbors,  
that we may live together in peace and share in our resources;  
God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our enemies,  
that they may receive good things,  
and that we, your servants, not return evil for evil;  
God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God,  
receive these prayers we offer,  
and by the power of your Holy Spirit  
make us witnesses to the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
through whom we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*sins / sin against us*)

Hymnal, Pg 35

**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 sins,  
as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.**

Call to Offering

Bountiful are God's gifts to us.  
In gratitude, let us offer our hearts  
and the fruit of our labor to God's service.

Offertory

\* Hymn No. 606 **"PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW"**

*Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;  
praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;  
praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;  
praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.*

\* Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray:

Almighty God,

by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor  
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.

### THE SENDING FORTH

\* Hymn No. 838

“STANDING ON THE PROMISES”

PROMISES

*Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ, my king,  
through e-ter-nal a-ges let his prais-es ring;  
glo-ry in the high-est, I will shout and sing,  
stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.*

*Refrain:*

*Stand-ing, stand-ing,  
stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God my Sav-ior;  
stand-ing, stand-ing,  
I'm stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.*

*Stand-ing on the prom-is-es that can-not fail,  
when the howl-ing storms of doubt and fear as-sail,  
by the liv-ing Word of God I shall pre-vail,  
stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.*

*[Refrain]*

*Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ, the Lord,  
bound to him e-ter-nal-ly by love's strong cord,  
o-ver-com-ing dai-ly with the Spir-it's sword,  
stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.*



*Refrain:*  
*Stand-ing, stand-ing,*  
*stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God my Sav-ior;*  
*stand-ing, stand-ing,*  
*I'm stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.*

*Stand-ing on the prom-is-es I can-not fall,*  
*lis-tening ev-ery mo-moment to the Spir-it's call,*  
*rest-ing in my Sav-ior as my all in all,*  
*stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.*

*[Refrain]*

\* Charge

Go in the joy of resurrection:  
purify your souls;  
be obedient to the truth;  
be genuine in love,  
through the living and enduring Word of God.

\* Blessing

May the grace of Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
the love of God who raised him from the dead,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit who fills the world with new life  
bless and keep you.

**Alleluia!**

\* Sung Response No. 591 “**HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!**” (*Verse 1*)

*O God, to whom shall we go?*  
*You a-lone have the words of life.*  
*Let your words be our prayer and the song we sing:*  
*hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah!*

\* Postlude

## MUSIC ATTRIBUTIONS

“Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen”

Text: Trad. liturgical text

Music: Thomas Pavlecho, 2006

Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”

Text: Ref. trad. Liturgical text; Marty Haugen, 1990

Music: Caribbean melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1990; stanzas, Marty Haugen, 1990

Text and Music © 1990 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

Music Arr. © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

### PUBLIC DOMAIN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)”

“Standing on the Promises”