

The Third Sunday of Easter 2020  
Luke 24

Holy Spirit, Light Divine/Shine upon this heart of mine  
Chase the shades of night away/Turn my darkness into day.  
Let me see my Savior's face/Let me all His beauties trace.  
Show that Gospel truth to me/Which is only known to Thee. Amen.

*“...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 happened.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning,<sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.<sup>[1]</sup>*

In the Name of Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>[2]</sup> Simon Peter, my dear ones. On Pentecost!

Clearly, The Holy Spirit is now playing the part of PETER'S tongue—that's where He landed! There, Peter's tongue, is the fire of CHRIST'S judgment—the judgment of THE REVEALED God, happy with us with Christ; NOT the hidden God, who demands some sort of 'RELATIONSHIP' with us, some 'input' from us, some 'investment' from us. No-no!

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<sup>[1]</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 24:21–27). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>[2]</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ac 2:36). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Saint Peter made BOLD—in the Name of the Lord, the Christ, Jesus—BOLD to BAPTIZE. Surely they used running water, living water, for so many: 3000.

That so many would be baptized! HERE! In a world that ONLY talks about, looks for, some thing rock solid in creatures of dust and returning there.

That ALSO means: 3000 REPENTED! HERE! In a world that ONLY talks about, looks the rock solid in...dust.

<sup>16</sup> But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up 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 happened.”<sup>[3]</sup>

“WE...HAD...HOPES!”

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<sup>[3]</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 24:16–21). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

T...H...A...N...K God, that OUR hopes have been dashed! And for good! Simon Peter's hopes.

The Lord IGNORED the hopes of the two men on the road to Emmaus. And, all New-Testament-y, He PRETENDS that THEIR HOPES are HIS HOPES: the certain pledge of sins forgiven!

“Who do the crowds say that I am?” <sup>19</sup> And they answered, “John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen.” <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “The Christ of God.” <sup>21</sup> And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, <sup>22</sup> saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

<sup>23</sup> And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.<sup>[4]</sup>

<sup>31</sup> “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.” <sup>[5]</sup>

Peter would rather DIE—he dreams!—than lose the One Holy One Who bears with a sinful man like HIMSELF! He'd even try save his

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<sup>[4]</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 9:18–24). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>[5]</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 22:31–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

soul by laying down his soul. Saint Luke records that Peter was not the only one armed with a sword among the disciples. They took two! Informing their idol, Jesus, He says—MAN! It was time to die!—‘That...that...two is enough to show you unbelief; that’s fine.’

What the Lord was able to do with Peter, in just 50 days, or so, from that night of weeping! Actually, it began on just the THIRD day: “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”

‘Get outta town! To SIMON? Our *Peter* Simon? Could it be?!’

‘Oh, it be! It now is ROCK SOLID that the Lord has risen from the dead! Christ the King is King of His killers: “Father, forgive these; let’s take them into the Kingdom! THAT’LL make so many smile and be glad!” But, even more: since He has appeared to Simon, He’s not looking for ANYONE to polish up his relationship with heaven; not now!’

He fulfills His Word! The two on the road to Emmaus stood there, with sad, downcast faces. Now-now! There’ll be no sad faces on Easter!

<sup>14</sup> And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves.

<sup>18</sup> For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” <sup>19</sup> And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>[6]</sup>

<sup>30</sup> When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>[7]</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. <sup>[8]</sup>

The Lord IS risen! Indeed! He is STILL breaking the Bread—bread that HE says is His body, given for us. His Kingdom comes!

To whom? Ha! Sinners! Fools. Slow. Children.

<sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Again, keeping His Word!

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<sup>[6]</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 22:14–19). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>[7]</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 24:30–31). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>[8]</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 24:35). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>15</sup> Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>17</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” <sup>[9]</sup>

Sometimes, in the Kingdom of God, now: it is ‘time out,’ dear children of God. Fear not. He comes soon. Then, no more ‘time-outs.’

How soon, until He breaks the Bread among us again, bringing His Kingdom into OUR midst? Unless Christ’s slaves keep us distant still, freedom is next Sunday. Easter 4. Good Shepherd Sunday.

Seven days of fasting left now until we eat and drink, together, His Body and His Blood, given and shed for us, to bring the Kingdom into the midst of such children—who need to hear and learn, again and again and again, the Word and the Gospel and the apostles and the prophets—that’s children!—

Is the Kingdom of God now in our midst? No doubt! Despite our doubts. Luther says the Gospel and the Whole Christ is like a mathematical point—there, though you cannot measure or see or conceive; but can, yet, hear of; and learn; even, now and then, burn with

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<sup>[9]</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 18:15–17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

that fire that IS the Happy Spirit's kindling the Kingdom of God where there is His Pledged Word!

He appears to us! Still!

<sup>16</sup>“The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.” <sup>[10]</sup>

ALL the weight is off of us! There remains NO...THING, left for us to mop up or set straight. Instead, His Kingdom COMES, without our prayer! And we are freed and pardoned and baptized and made bold, to pray that His Kingdom would come to us also.

Well, we have received the repentance of Baptism—repentance, because our Baptism IS our happy confession that WE BEEN THROWN A BONE! (Saved by grace, if you wanna be all Bible-y.)

My dear ones: don't hide with your sins. Adam sinned and hid. Faithlessness makes people hide; will again, on the Last Day.

The NEW has come to you: a King unlike all kings; a Kingdom filled with killers and thieves and prostitutes—and may we join them!

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<sup>[10]</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Lk 10:16). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

So talk to your God. He ALWAYS identifies Himself as YOUR God. No use letting Him go to WASTE!

E...v...e...r...y time you rebel against His will, there's a good thing that you are making bad. Moses had his try, his time, his people, his covenant, and a kingdom supposedly based on it: 'Let's get in line with the will of God above.'

All that men trapped by demands can do is either throw caution to the wind and be wild. You can tell such people. They laugh a lot. What hidden pain are they hiding?

OR, they act like Law-kingdom men: they laugh too. But their laughter is dry as dust, and all finger-pointer-y. What doubt are THEY trying to hide?

Ah! The NEW Kingdom is in our midst, my dear ones. The fig leaves are off; the hiding is just another bit of child's play to grow out of; for the Father will never ask again, 'Did you do what I told you NOT TO?!'

So, pattern yourself after your poor minister. The Good Book says in several places that I am supposed to be a pattern for y'all. Here's the only pattern I know for praying:

Pray with pastor: 'Dear Father, the food you make is SO yummy! But instead of throwing my ALL in with YOU, and then eating, I end up throwing my ALL in with THE EATING! And you fade off to the back. Help.'



This is NOT a diet plan, friends. It is freedom: to pray and be certain that you are heard, no matter what the scale says. He who is without sin among y'all doesn't need the Lord un-tombed. Or His Spirit. Or my Gospel.

That is prayer: admission, trusting ONLY in our washing at His Name, and burying OUR contributions with a shovel, and then burying the shovel we buried them with: repentance!—

So take the God Who is a 'YOU-named-God' now—and display your other gods before HIM! And let HIM deal with them! How we turn good GIFTS of God I...N...T...O God, because we are not at all certain GAW-AWD is gonna be on the scene when we need him again! Like good food.

And money, given to serve us; NOT for us to SERVE!

Even natural, human desire is good, where and when it belongs. The God Who stitches you together knows you! You cannot even get too intimate and gross and icky with Him. He done seen it all! What even the doctor doesn't know!

Other perversions? Power can be good—but not centered in you, or SOLELY in people whom you cheer.

Good conversation—meant to lift up and make alive; used daily and much to tear down and abuse and kill.

The thing we call ‘time,’ which is really nothing but living goodness and deeds abounding—what ARE we doing, instead of praying and thanking and loving and building and blessing—with our ‘TIME?’?!

Repent and be baptized!

And, y’all who ARE baptized! Keep up that repenting! Do not WASTE what Holy Baptism WORKS in our midst!

Tell ALL THAT LIST OF SINNING! Look at all the options! You can be a murder! Or a thief! Or a prostitute! There’s an endless gallery of characters to play! And to TELL to the Spirit! The Spirit of Jesus. M...E...A...N...I...N...G, YOUR Spirit! PRETEND, if you wanna call faith PRETENDING—PRETEND that God is now King over you by submitting Himself to YOU!

He’s closer to YOU than YOU will ever be to YOU! And you can’t fool Him anyway. And He has nothing else to live for today, than to hear your prayer, your confession; and make it alive in heaven and on earth, in the Kingdom.

The Spirit of Jesus is with you: the Gospel, Holy Baptism and the Breaking of the Bread say. And—Lord, have mercy!—your Gospel-repeater is BOLD to say to you today. Now, listen careful-like, one more time:

The Spirit of Jesus is with you—not EVEN IF you go all idolatrous again and forget your Maker, Redeemer, your Holiness. Not EVEN IF you sin. No. The Promise the Father made to Jesus—His Spirit!—He is with you, ONLY if you are a sinner; and in need of a Friend; a Friend with the Name Jesus. Amen.