

Readings + Third Sunday of Easter, year A + April 19, 2026

Prayer of the Day

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. Amen

First Reading Acts 2:14a, 36-41

¹⁴ 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 this Jesus whom you crucified to be both Lord and Messiah.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers and sisters, 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.” ⁴⁰ And Peter 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.

Psalmody Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,
for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God’s people.

Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.

O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God’s people,

in the courts of the LORD’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:17-23

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 Christ was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through Christ you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith 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.

Holy Gospel Luke 24:13-35

Only Luke tells this wonderful story.

¹³ Now on that same day when Jesus rose from the dead, two of the 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, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.

¹⁸Then 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?” ¹⁹He 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, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But 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. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some 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.”

²⁵Then Jesus said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to trust all that the

prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But 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.

³⁰When Jesus was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?”

³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.