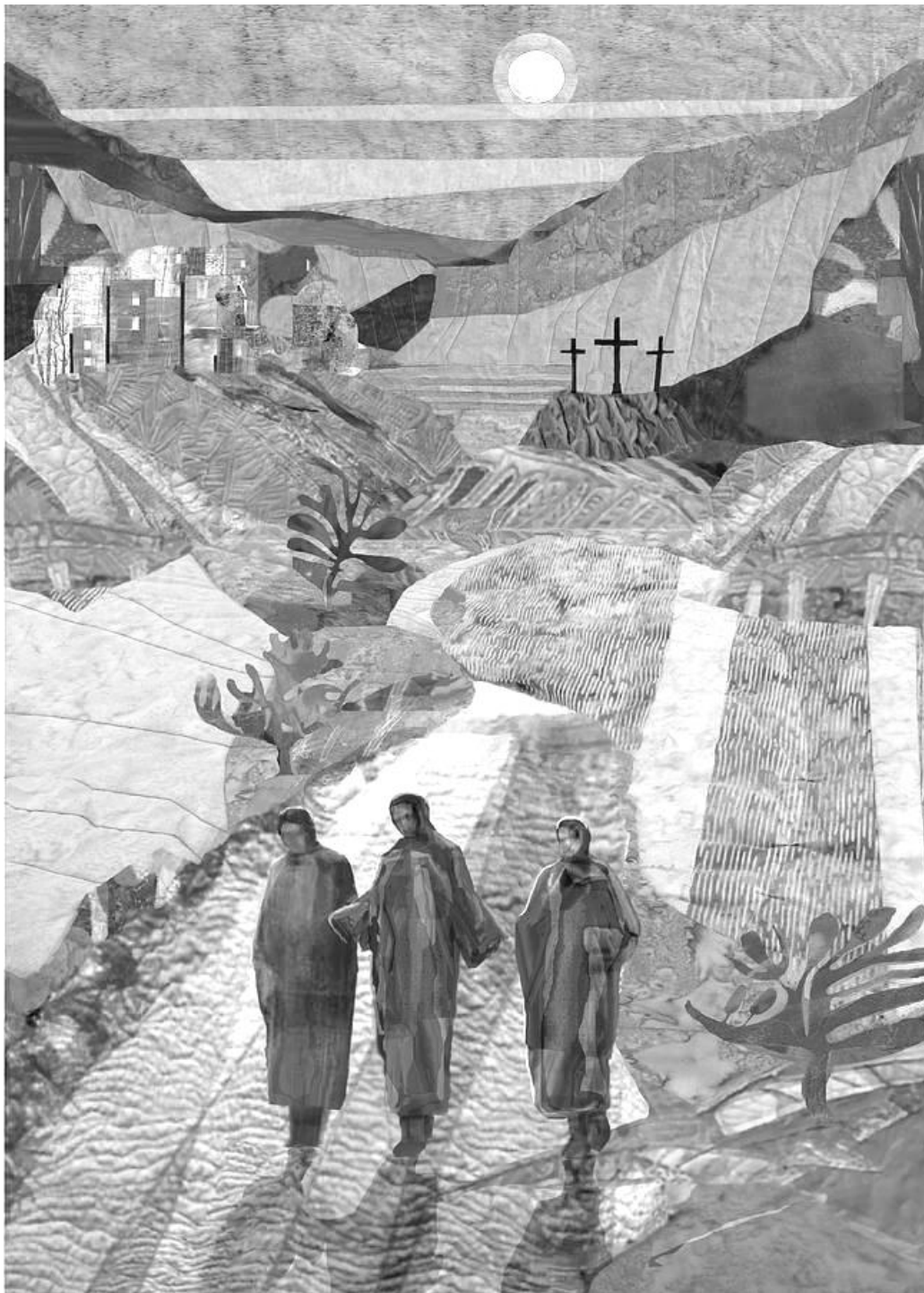


# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18th, 2021



## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661  
[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
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**SOUL Ministry:** Trinda Rensen/Gillian Leaver  
**Facebook:** Lisa Gall [www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC](http://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC)  
**Bulletin by email:** Judy Mason [chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca)

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### **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Prayer:** O Almighty and Eternal God, now that You have assured us of the completion of our redemption through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, give us the will to show forth in our lives what we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sunday Musician:** 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. – Mayumi Munoz  
**Sunday Reader:** 9 a.m. – Chris Mason 11 a.m. – Greg Jack

#### **9 AM - Contemporary Worship** **Morning Praise**

Responses & Song – In Christ Alone  
Confession of Sins & Forgiveness  
Sung Kyrie & “Praise to the Lamb”  
Prayer of the Day  
Scripture Readings  
Gospel Song & Gospel  
Apostles’ Creed  
Song – Stay With Us  
Message  
“Create in Me”  
Prayers  
Lord’s Prayer  
Benediction  
Closing Song—Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

#### **11 AM -Traditional Worship** **Spoken Matins [LSB alt.]**

Hymn – Who Is This Who Joins Us?  
Matins spoken responses  
“O Come & Sing Unto The Lord”  
Psalm 124 & Prayer of the Day  
Scripture Readings  
Gospel Verse & Holy Gospel  
Hymn—Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen  
Message  
Easter Season Song—The Strife Is O’er  
Prayers  
Lord’s Prayer  
Luther’s Morning Prayer  
Blessing  
Closing Hymn--Abide With Us, The Day Is Waning

**Sunday School: Our Good Shepherd –** <https://youtu.be/ygUnnsk5jkw>  
**Precious Moments: Ascension –** [https://youtu.be/Uw\\_0HOJ\\_g4g](https://youtu.be/Uw_0HOJ_g4g)  
**Children’s Message):** <https://youtu.be/SP8Ehp7Bf-A>

#### **DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: Eph. 2: 4-10                      Wed.: John 21: 15-19                      Friday: John 18: 1-9  
Tuesday: Matt. 26: 31-35                      Thurs: 1 Pet. 5: 1-4                      Saturday: Acts 20: 28-32

**COVID 19 – PROTOCOL:** Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ Lutheran Church, let us continue to be mindful of COVID 19 by following all safety measures and protocols. If you have any of the symptoms outlined by Public Health, please remain at home. Services are available online.

If attending worship, please:

- **Wear a mask covering both your mouth and nose at all times.**
- **Sanitize your hands frequently**
- **Practice social distancing, 2 metres or 6 feet apart**
- **Ensure you have a temperature check before entering**
- **Ensure your attendance is noted at the entrance doors.**

**COVID RESTRICTIONS:** Hope everyone is healthy and safe. Our church is open at 15% capacity (35 people) for our 9 AM Contemporary & 11 AM Traditional services. All protocols mandated by Niagara Region Public Health will be in place. A video recording of the service will be posted each Sunday at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSq>

**LWMLC/Mary Martha Zoom Meeting:** Tuesday, April 20 7pm - Please join us for a virtual meeting on Zoom. We plan to open with a devotion and delve into an important topic for these challenging times with a video and discussion. Please expect an email with more details. If you would like to attend please contact Lorraine Kaija or Carole Pink.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LUTHER MANOR ST. CATHARINES INC.:** will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Please contact Karen McCumber ([luther.manor.inc@gmail.com](mailto:luther.manor.inc@gmail.com)) if you would like to become a member of the Corporation.

**Last Sunday Attendance: (April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021) 9 a.m. – 21; 11 a.m. -26; Total: 47**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>+ or – (–)</u>
Current:	271,175.00	5,214.90	4,439.00	55,280.69	(22,618.90)
Missions	20,000.00	384.62	587.00	4,935.00	(449.62)
Property Improvement:			407.00	1,786.50	

**FLOWERS** have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by the Kuhl Family to celebrate Tom's birthday on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**FLOWERS FOR ALTAR:** If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign your name at the back of the church or email: [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca). Cost is \$25/bouquet

**COLLECTION NOTE:** At this point we are not 'collecting' any craft materials for the church (i.e. milk bags for mats; SOUL bingo prizes; Christmas cards for Sunday School or SOUL, puzzles for exchange, etc.)

**SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC:** It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

**1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS:** Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at:

[http://christlutheransc.ca/?page\\_id=96](http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96)

then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,  
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3  
Attn: Darryll Holland

**2. BY MAIL:** cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church  
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

**3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA:** Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ).

This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

**The First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 3: 12-19**

When Peter saw [the healing of the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple], he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out... This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Second Reading: St. John's Revelations 5: 8-14** When the Lord had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.' Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 24:13-35**

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 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. 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?" 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, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up 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 happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 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. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**REV. TODD HOEFFS**

**EASTER 3**

**Sermon: St. Luke 24: 13-35**

**Title: "Heart Burning Yearning Feasting Faith"**

**April 18, 2021**

The message for Easter 3 is from Luke's Gospel, chapter 24: "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...."

"Expect the worst, hope for the best."

Advice most people follow.

Especially now.

Further lockdown measures.

Hoping the illness becomes less threatening.

Hoping things get better,

That our feel for normal life gets better.

We hope to see a movie in a theatre again.

We hope to go on relaxing vacation.

We hope to get a haircut.

Certainly, our priorities and needs are somewhat different.

SO WE HOPE.

Apostle Paul writes that "hope does not disappoint us."

Why?

Because hope trusts in God's promises made complete  
in Jesus' death and resurrection.

"we are not meant to live in regret, for we are a people of HOPE."

While it's human to regret, to look inward and feel badly for ourselves and our situations (whatever they may be),

God didn't create us to live IN regret.

But to walk with Him, trust in His care, rest secure knowing He will take care of us.

But in our minds we go over and over what might have been.

It's unhealthy.

Physically & spiritually.

It creates stress, anxiety, dissatisfaction with life as it is.

The 2 Emmaus travelers are doing just that.

Going over what they've seen and heard.

2 days before they started walking,

Jesus got arrested, abused, accused, crucified,  
died, and buried..

And these 2 travelers are Jesus' family.

Cleopas is His uncle, his dad Joseph's brother.

His walking partner is believed to be his son, Jesus' cousin.

Cleopas' wife helped prepare Jesus' body for burial, with the other women. Expecting a corpse, they found an empty tomb!

I guess Cleopas doesn't believe his own wife?!

[This should tell us husbands something...always believe your wives!!!]

This makes it all the more disappointing.

Good News of resurrection didn't make their dreams come true.

They're sad, confused, let down.

THEY HAD HOPED...

How easy it is to keep believing that something isn't true,

that nothing ever changes!?

The events of the past few days

wiped out their understanding

of what the Promised Christ of God came to earth to accomplish.

Everything they've believed and trusted lays dormant, like a closed tomb.

Knowing this, Jesus appears and starts walking with His 2 relatives!

*"What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?"*

They stop. Faces cast down.

Thinking this guy's the only one in the entire city

who doesn't know what all took place.

THEY HAD HOPED.

A prophet of God, powerful, mighty in words and actions....

handed over by the religious authorities and put to death....

and now it's the 3rd day...and ...nothing's happened!!!

WE HAD HOPED.

A brand-new day, total redemption for Israel.

This was their dream.

NOT in a salvation from sin kinda redemption.

Certainly no one dying on a cross.

They expected freedom from captivity from Rome.

Luke's Greek word [Lutron] choice tells us this.

It means basic freedom.

No more enemy oppression.

Fame. Glory. Victory. National Pride.

THEY HAD HOPED.

And as soon as they tell Jesus women saw it and yet they remain depressed, He calls them FOOLS!

They're hearts are too full of anguish at what THEY wanted

They are slow to embrace the truth of WHAT IS!

THEY HOPED...for the wrong thing.

This turned them inward.

Made their faith sluggish.

Luke's Greek word choice for FOOL is like the sound small children make learning to speak. Talking without clear verbiage.

They failed to believe

in what the prophets foretold of this

GREAT PROPHET THEY HAD HOPED IN!

2 empty men about to be filled.

Can that happen to us?

Sure.

We expect the wrong things all the time.

We expect God to act a certain way and HE seems to do the opposite.

Why? Is it God's fault?

No.

Ours. We sin, God is without sin.

Our will isn't lined up with His.

To be lined up with God,

our foolish will and sluggish heart must be transformed.

Our faith must be turned upside down,

shaken out and re-filled with

"ALL THAT THE PROPHETS HAVE SPOKEN

CONCERNING THE CHRIST IN OUR LIVES."

You see, they don't remain in regret...they live in hope...

and this is our hope, too.

Jesus makes their foolish hearts BURN!

Jesus takes uncle Cleopas and his son back to Moses.

When faithful Moses stood before the burning bush

and the Lord God Jesus Himself, the GREAT I AM,

Who spoke from the bush, giving perfect freedom with faith in the promised Saviour of all nations.

Maybe Jesus pointed out Elijah,

and the fire of God's glory

which was lit when the prophet poured water...yes, water...all over the altar built for false gods.

Maybe reminding them of the fire on the temple altar

made their hearts burn,

no more sacrifices,

JESUS HIMSELF got burned up on the cross for the sins of the entire world!

The biggest theme of the Old Testament is ... somebody's coming.....somebody's coming... and

when he comes...

this is where He'll be born,

this is what he'll do,

and this is how he'll teach and this is how he'll die.

And Jesus opened up all of this to them.

On the 7-mile journey to Emmaus.

The bright burning Word of God from the voice of His Son

MADE THEIR HEARTS BURN.

Such Word makes our hearts burn, too.

Even if these stories are just that,

dry facts from the Bible,

they prove GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

HE said freedom comes with His Son's death and resurrection...

and it happened.

That makes your hearts burn. [KAIO – consume with flame]

Not the kind of burn after eating too many hot peppers.

This is an all-consuming flame.

Not a big erupting glowing earth blazing fire!

More like a quiet, steady camp fire.

A few crackling embers, flickering flames.

But its quiet. It's calming even.

Our hearts of faith burn quietly

while at the same time as roaring, steady flames.

A believing faith fire lit by God through ....

Water again, Baptismal water...and His Word.

The baptismal candle everyone receives at baptism

echoes this flame of faith.

Our hearts burn

with a fiery consuming faith fanned into flame

through the constant working of the Holy Spirit.

He keeps you strong in what you believe

and trusting the One Who gives you such hope.

And...as you spend your life hoping,

you desire God's plan for your life.

For His plan is livable.

We always know what God expects.

To trust in Him, to depend on Him for all things.

God remains on our side.

Breathing life into our lives.

Feeding our faith. Keeping promises.

THIS IS OUR HOPE.

This hope come to life again at when we celebrate Holy Communion.

Just as it had in Emmaus.

At their table.

When Jesus sat down, blessed and shared the Bread.

From the spoken Word to the flame of faith to the Eating of the Bread – HEARTS BURN ANEW!

HOPE IS RESTORED!

Jesus didn't just hand them a piece of bread,

He handed them HIMSELF.

Broken bread put their lives back together.

Broken bread but another faith log onto their burning heart

on fire for the goodness of God.

With His bread He gave them welcome,

compassion, joy, renewal, forgiveness

and a message to share.

And

As they hope, as their faith burns...just as things get good and wonderful,

Jesus

leaves them.

But He doesn't disappear.

He is there, but unseen.

He is present, but not in physical body.

Because His Body is with EVERY believer

At all times of the day

And in all places of the world

In the Breaking of the Bread.

He is no longer with them,

He is IN THEM.

As He is in you and me now.

From that day onward all believers

would receive Jesus as you and I do today.

Holy Communion.

Hearts burning with flames of faith and Bread of Life.

One family of believers all over the world.

Connected by faith and water and bread and wine.

This means there is no regret,

Only hope.

No life re-wind.

Only forward in faith.

No wondering if we just had done this....

but trusting in the one Who's done it all for you.

For your good.

Our Lord Jesus.

our hope.

We live in hope.

And our hearts burn.

**Amen.**