

**4/27/25**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**For Group Meetings from April 20<sup>th</sup> – April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**OUR MISSION:** As a missional congregation we *celebrate* Christ's presence, *invite* people into a growing relationship with Jesus, and *equip* them to *serve* in a broken world.

**Prayer of the Day:**

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER**

**Share:** How did last week's scripture (Luke 24:1-12) work in your life this week?

**Mission:**

- What was most satisfying about your ministry last week?
- Where do you see God at work?
- How did you participate in God's missional activity?
- How did inviting go last Sunday?

**Hear:** Luke 24:13-35

**Explore Questions:** (Use these or develop your own.)

1. Why was the crucifixion so devastating for the followers of Jesus?
2. What kept Cleopas and his companion from recognizing Jesus?
3. What happens when Jesus breaks the bread?

**Connect Questions:** (Use these or develop your own.)

1. When has disappointment or grief clouded your understanding?
2. When you have experienced trauma or grief what has been helpful?
3. How is Jesus calling you to be changed?

**Memorize this verse:** "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?" (Luke 24:32) What helps your heart burn for Jesus?

**BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:**

**Obey:** During this week follow through on your intentions.

**Meditate:** Meditate on Psalm 118:14-29. How does this speak into your life?

**Reflect:** What have I learned in my week of living with this text? What can I share with my group when we next meet?

## Notes for ChristCare leaders:

The Emmaus story is one of my favorites. Part of that, is because I think it is Luke's great promise about Christian worship. Think about the four-part movement of the narrative: 1) the two travelers are met on the road, 2) have the scriptures opened, 3) share in a meal that reveals the identity and presence of Christ, 4) and then are sent to share and live the good news. That strikes me as remarkably parallel to the classic Christian pattern of worship involving gathering, word, meal, and sending. A reminder from Luke that in Christian worship you will be encountered by the risen Christ. So that's one reason I love this story. But I also love it because of four words that pop up right in the middle of this story, four words that I think are among the most heartbreaking and realistic in Scripture: "But we had hoped ..."

"But we had hoped ..." I love those heartbreaking words not because I enjoy wallowing in dark or sentimental emotions, but because they ring true to me. They are not the only truth, of course; there is much in this life that is beautiful, daring, confident, inspiring, and more, all of which deserves our gratitude. But there is also disappointment, heartbreak, and failure. And all too often we tend to gloss over this. Or if not gloss over it, at least feel the pressure to move by it too quickly toward some kind of resolution, fleeing the cross-like experiences of life for the promise of resurrection. A friend shares the news of a death of his sister, and we sympathize for a moment before changing the topic. Or a colleague shares her disappointment at not getting a promotion, and we remind her that at least she has a job. Or we see an acquaintance we know has just gone through a dreadful loss, and we avoid him or her altogether because we just don't know what to say. We don't mean to be callous or insensitive, we are just at such a loss with, well, loss. We feel inadequate to the task of confronting the darkness of our lives and this world and so flee to the light in denial.

And perhaps that's somewhat understandable. We are, after all, people of the resurrection. And so, when reading this story, we often hurry to the burning hearts part of the narrative, celebrating with the disciples their encounter with the Risen Christ. But just as before there is resurrection there is the cross, so also, I'd say that before there are burning hearts there are broken ones. Can we welcome broken hearts? That sounds easier than I think it is. Because I'm not talking about treating our broken hearts as a means to an end — you know, let's acknowledge the cross so that we can get on to the resurrection. Rather, I'm talking about recognizing that part and parcel of being human is being broken. And it is to these heartbroken disciples that the Risen Christ comes, walking along with us on the road, astonished that we don't see as we ought, teaching us the Scriptures that we may understand, sharing his presence through bread and wine, and granting burning hearts that prompt us back into the world.

But all of that starts with broken hearts. So, we are invited and allowed to share our disappointment that the cancer returned, the addiction wasn't overcome, the beloved died, the lover betrayed, the child walked away, the job didn't materialize, the family hurt instead of helped and so on and so on. Invited and allowed to grieve a future that will never be in order that we may possibly hear and receive the future God has created and prepared for us when we are ready to hear and as we are able.

**Thanks be to God,**

Pastor Thadd ([tbook@desertcross.org](mailto:tbook@desertcross.org))

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### *Traditional version:*

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 trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us  
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power,  
And the glory, forever and ever. Amen

### *Contemporary version:*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
Who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the  
power, and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever. Amen