
~WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER~

~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~

Pastor: God of all goodness; **People:** hear our prayer.

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OURSELVES~

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (Unison)

Mighty God who brings life and hope out of death and despair, help us hear the invitation Christ offered to the disciples, "Touch me and see!" Make us bold to grab hold of the risen Christ – not for this day but for all our days. May we offer our gifts this morning not to the church historical—the church that was—but to a church that is becoming, that is still being born, that Christ will bring into the future. May our eyes and ears and hearts continue to hold on to him as we help Christ lead his church forward! In his name, we pray. Amen. (Luke 24:36b-48)

CLOSING HYMN:
310

"He Lives"

UMH

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

*Liturgist: We are witnesses, to the love God has poured into us. We are witnesses of God's love, sharing it with each person we meet. We are witnesses to everyone we encounter, little children like us, sisters and brothers in God's family.

All: We go in the peace of Christ to love and serve all creation.

*Pastor: Go now as God's chosen witnesses to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him. Do not look for him among the dead, but be glad and rejoice in his salvation. And may God raise you from all that would entomb you; may Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you; and may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good.

POSTLUDE:



5th AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Avenue ~ West Bend WI 53095



~ **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER** ~April 18, 2021

Our theme this morning is on touching. Jesus is trying to ground the disciples' faith in the reality of his presence. He told them to touch him; he ate in front of them. He was announcing that he was real.

Of course, we have been in a pandemic and touching is still not something we fully engage in. But we can still give examples of lives being touched, hearts being touched.

The emphasis on this 3rd Sunday of Easter is on feeding, since Jesus ate that piece of fish as a way of proving

his presence. Oh, how this passage fondly reminds us of the traditional Methodist potlucks – perhaps they began right here as part of the Resurrection story of Jesus! Touch and see.

**Liturgist
Singer**

Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Pastor

***Note: L: denotes worship Leader ~ P: denotes People**

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

ORGAN PRELUDE

~WELCOME~

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: If you arrive here hungry for more of that divine bread which feeds your soul, then I welcome you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus says: "I am the bread of life. Those who come to me shall not hunger, and those who believe in me shall never thirst." Come, His grace is sufficient for all your needs. Come, worship isn't complete when done alone.

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-338-8535 or faumc.org

~COME, LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER~

CENTERING MUSIC

***CALLED TO WORSHIP (Responsively)**

Leader: The spirit of God calls us from many places; some of us come from busy homes with many people; some of us live alone.

All: We are a part of the family.

Leader: This week has been different for each of us; some of us have had happy news we want to celebrate; some of us have faced grief and need to cry.

All: We are members of God's family.

Leader: Yet we all come to this same place; all of us seeking God's presence in our lives; all of us seeking God's presence with each other.

All: Halleluiah! Together we become God's family.

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Unison)**

Lord of Dawn and Darkness, how grateful we are for your loving mercies. You saw our fear and doubt, our suspicion, our mistrust, and you banished them from our lives, replacing them with hope, peace, love, and joy. You called us to be your witnesses, to all the world, unafraid of what others might think or say about us. We have been invited out of our darkened hideaways, into the light of your world as messengers of

hope and justice, peace and compassion. Be with us, as we participate in ministries of healing and hope through 5th Ave. UMC, in our community, nation, and world. Give us courage and strength to be your disciples in all the circumstances of our lives; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light of Easter. Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults, and gifts us with grace and hope. Christ comes, to fill us with peace, that we may proclaim the good news of mercy and forgiveness. Thanks be to God. Christ has come to us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Turn towards your neighbor and say:

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

HYMN
2165

"Cry of My Heart"

TFWS

~WE PROCLAIM~

Luke 24:36-48 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

L: The Word of God for the People of God. **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"The Never-Ending Easter Dinner"

Pastor Clarissa

~RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION~

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

Pastor Clarissa: It is God who brings people to us;
we just receive them in celebration and
promise to help them along the journey of faith.

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism
we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation
and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

Ms. Ellen Johnson: I present Jeanne and Deborah Schacht who come seeking professing membership from Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church.

Dale and Sandy Liepert from Trinity United Methodist Church of Montello, have found a home hereat 5th Ave. UMC, have heard God call them beloved, and feels beloved by this congregation. Now they seek to deepen their relationship and commitment to this church community.

Pastor Clarissa addresses those professing membership:

As members of this congregation,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your prayers, your presence,
your gifts, your service
and your witness?

I will.

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Pastor Clarissa addresses 5th Ave. UMC Family:

Members of the household of God,
I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

5th Ave. UMC responds:

We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.

As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.

Pastor Clarissa:

The God of all grace,
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
that you may live in grace and peace.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Laypersons from their pews and online worship places join Ms. Ellen and Pastor Clarissa in acts of welcome and peace by waving.**

HYMN
Summons”
TFWS 2130



“The
(verse 5)

Lord's Supper – "Have you anything here to eat?"

Pastor: Worship and singing come to the focal point in the Lord's Supper. People of God, join together and participate in the saving deeds of Jesus and ponder anew what Christ has done for us - a New Covenant, Forgiveness, Passover Liberation, Eternal Life; worship that reflects our unity in Christ and our equality in Christ.

Liturgist: Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on, illuminating the places where you are present. As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance, you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of "Peace". You showed them the appalling marks of evil pierced on your hands and feet. You opened their minds to understand why you had to die to defeat such evil and death. Increase our understanding, we pray, and open our minds and hearts to receive you...

All: Lord, hear our prayer...

Bring to us O God, the sense of your living presence as we go into this new week. Renew in us the faith you want us to have, the faith that is not afraid to reach out in your name and to share the treasure you have given us, that treasure which is greater than silver and gold.

Lord, you know our hearts, you know our needs, and you know the hearts of those around us and their needs.

God our Father, in your love you welcome us as your children, through your care you have shaped the universe, with your mercy you hear our prayers. Hear us, your children, as we come before you in Christian fellowship.

Jesus, our Risen Master, in our weakness, you call us; in our confusion, you teach us; in our troubles, you offer us peace. Meet us, your siblings, as we come to hear your Word.

Spirit, Living One, in the beginning, you breathed life, in chaos and darkness, you brought hope, in many tongues, you spread Good News. Transform us, your people, as we open our minds and hearts to you.

God, Loving Father, Son and Spirit, we come. Yet we know we come with doubts and fears. We know we come in ignorance. We know we have failed you, your creation and your people,

in many ways. Trusting in your love, we turn again to you. As we open our hearts to your mercy and forgiveness, grant us your peace.

Pastor: On this 3rd Sunday of Easter morning, we come to remember just as Jesus' followers did so long ago. We come to be reminded that our God is a God of protection. That our God is faithful. That our God will make a way, even when it seems impossible. On this morning we come to remember that night that Jesus would offer himself as the Passover lamb. That a new covenant was formed, a promise of love that even death could not steal away.

On that night Jesus gathered together family and friends for one last meal before he humbly gave himself over to suffer and die. On that night Jesus would eat a feast with those who would later betray, deny and abandon him. And instead of malice or anger he offers them the gift of forgiveness and grace.

Taking bread, he gave thanks to God, broke the bread, and gave it to those present saying: "This is my body broken for you. Whenever you eat this bread, remember me." At the end of the meal, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, and said: "This is my blood shed to ratify God's covenant of grace with you and with many for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you drink of this, remember me."

On this Sunday morning, we offer our praises and thanksgiving for this gift of love. We eat this meal to connect with God, with each other, so that we may be strengthened to serve the world in the name of the Risen Jesus. People of God, we are reminded that this meal is not merely a remembrance but a holy mystery. Pour out your Spirit on us. Pour out your Spirit on these gifts. Make these gifts the body and blood of Christ. Make us, through them, Christ's body alive in the world. Abba, Father! Accept these prayers, accept our worship, accept us, through your love, **Amen**. Adapted from Jenny Adams.

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! We have not seen the risen Christ, but we see him in the lives of those transformed by grace. We have not seen Jesus face-to-face, but we have seen him in the faces of everyone whose love encourages us. We have not touched his wounds from the cross, but we have been called to bring healing to the scarred of the world. We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ: a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community, a justice-making people, giving glory to God! Alleluia! Amen!

~WELCOMING, ENGAGING, AND TEACHING OUR YOUTH~



An Open Mind

Luke 24:36b-48

Good morning Young People. To grow and become strong, what must you do? Yes, you must eat good food. Do you consider fruits and vegetables to be good food?

Let's have some fun and see if we can solve a few fruit and vegetable riddles.

1. I am a vegetable. I am green and I'm shaped like a tree.
2. I'm a berry. I'm tiny, round, and blue.
3. I'm a vegetable. I'm orange on the bottom and have a green top.

4. I am a fruit. I have a long shape. I'm yellow and monkeys like to eat me.

5. Some people think I'm a vegetable, but I'm a fruit. I'm red and have seeds inside. Sometimes I'm mashed up and made into spaghetti sauce.

All of these fruits and vegetables are healthy choices and tasty too.

When Jesus reappeared to his disciples, after his death, he said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" (24:41).

They gave him some broiled fish and he took it and ate it while he was with them. He then explained to them how everything that had been written about him was being fulfilled.

The Bible tells us "he opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures" (24:45) – what had been written about his life and death and his appearing again after death.

We have talked about growing and becoming strong by eating good food. We must open our mouths to eat, letting the healthy food in. We must also open our minds and let the good news, which Jesus brings, become a part of us. We are told God will help us understand. We grow and become strong Christians by opening our minds to what God is trying to teach us. Open your mind to God's word and receive his love.

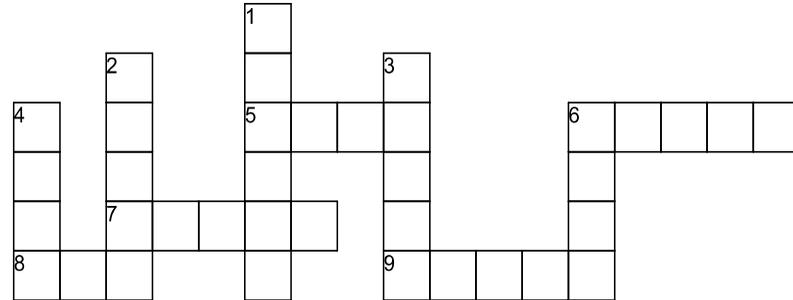
Answers: 1-(broccoli) 2-(blueberry) 3-(carrot) 4-(banana) 5-(tomato)

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." Luke 24:36 (NIV)



Complete the activity below.



ACROSS

- 5. An animal that lives in the water
- 6. The soft outer parts of the body; skin
- 7. What the skeleton is made of
- 8. To take in food through the mouth
- 9. to handle or feel something with your fingers

DOWN

- 1. To feel pain
- 2. To be unsure about something.
- 3. A dead person appearing in a bodily form
- 4. To return from death
- 6. An animal that lives in the water

TOUCH	RISE	FISH	FLESH	BONES
FISH	EAT	DOUBT	SUFFER	GHOST