

## APRIL 26, 2020 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

### Acts 2: 14a, 35-41 NRSV

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them...<sup>36</sup> “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah,<sup>[h]</sup> this Jesus whom you crucified.”<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers,<sup>[i]</sup> what should we do?”<sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”<sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”<sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

*Acts 1: 15 speaks of a crowd of 120 believers. 1 Corinthians 15: 6 says that Jesus appeared to more than five hundred at one time. What do you think it was like for the early church to go from 500 members to 3500 members in one day?*

*What do you think of the priorities of the early church – the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread (which probably means receiving communion), and prayers?*

### 1 Peter 1: 17-25 NRSV

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth<sup>[d]</sup> so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,<sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord endures forever.” That word is the good news that was announced to you.

*Verse 20 – “He was destined before the foundation of the world” – long before -*

*Jeremiah 31: 31 – when God said that He would make a new covenant with His people*

*Isaiah 53: 5 – when the prophet spoke of one who would be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities*

*2 Samuel 7: 16 – when God told David that his house and his kingdom would be made sure forever*

*Exodus 12: 7 – when God told Moses to instruct the Israelites to put the blood of the Passover lamb on their doorposts*

*Genesis 22: 13 – when a ram caught in a thicket was sacrificed instead of Isaac  
Even before the foundation of the world God knew how He would save us*

### **Luke 24: 13-35 NRSV**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>[f]</sup> from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.<sup>[g]</sup> <sup>18</sup> Then 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?” <sup>19</sup> He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth,<sup>[h]</sup> who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.<sup>[i]</sup> Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and 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. <sup>24</sup> Some 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.” <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah<sup>[j]</sup> should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But 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. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us<sup>[k]</sup> while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*When have you failed to see Jesus acting in the world and active in the circumstances of your life?*

*When has your heart burned within you when you were reading the Bible, hearing a sermon, singing or listening to a hymn or other Christian song, etc.?*

*When has Jesus become known to you in the breaking of the bread?*