

APRIL 18, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Jesus opens our minds to understand the scriptures.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 3:12-19	Peter speaks in the temple
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-7	Children of God
Wednesday	Joshua 1:1-9	God's commission to Joshua
Thursday	2 Timothy 3:14-17	Paul's last instructions to Timothy
Friday	Nehemiah 8:1-8	Ezra summons the people
Saturday	Psalms 4	An evening prayer
Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then [Jesus] opened [the disciples] 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 repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name." Luke 24:45-47a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and merciful God, help us to be aware of your grace that we may daily repent of our sins and turn to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks for the food that nourishes the body and for your word that nourishes the soul. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord keep you safe and grant that you lie down in peace. (Psalm 4:8)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lord, Speak to Us,
That We May Speak*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you want to learn more about?
- What questions do you have about Jesus and the Christian faith?
- Who or where do you turn to when you want to know more about the Christian faith?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 24:36b-48.

It is clear that the first followers of Jesus were drawn to the Hebrew Scriptures to understand what happened to Jesus and what that meant for them as his followers. Jesus himself opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, that is, the Old Testament, since the New Testament had not yet been written. There is a continuity between the Old and New Testaments that Christians can easily overlook. Easter is a good time to commit to reading the Bible—Old and New Testaments—to seek a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and what his reign means for the world and the church of today. How can reading the Bible strengthen your faith and encourage you to share the message of Jesus in word and deed?

Pray: **Dear resurrected Savior and Lord, give us the desire to read the Bible, learn more about you, and share your message of forgiveness with those we meet. Amen.**

SERVICE

April 22 is observed as Earth Day around the world. Psalm 4 uses the image of an abundance of grain and wine to show the joy of knowing God. As we acknowledge that God is the creator of all things, it is good for us to care for what God has made. It is a source of joy. In what way can you experience the joy of God's creation this week through caring for the earth?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The end of the day is a good time to slow down, reflect on the day, and focus on God's place at the center of our lives. Take time before going to bed each day this week to think or talk about mountain highs and valley lows for the day and then read and reflect on this verse from Psalm 4:8, *"I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety."*



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org