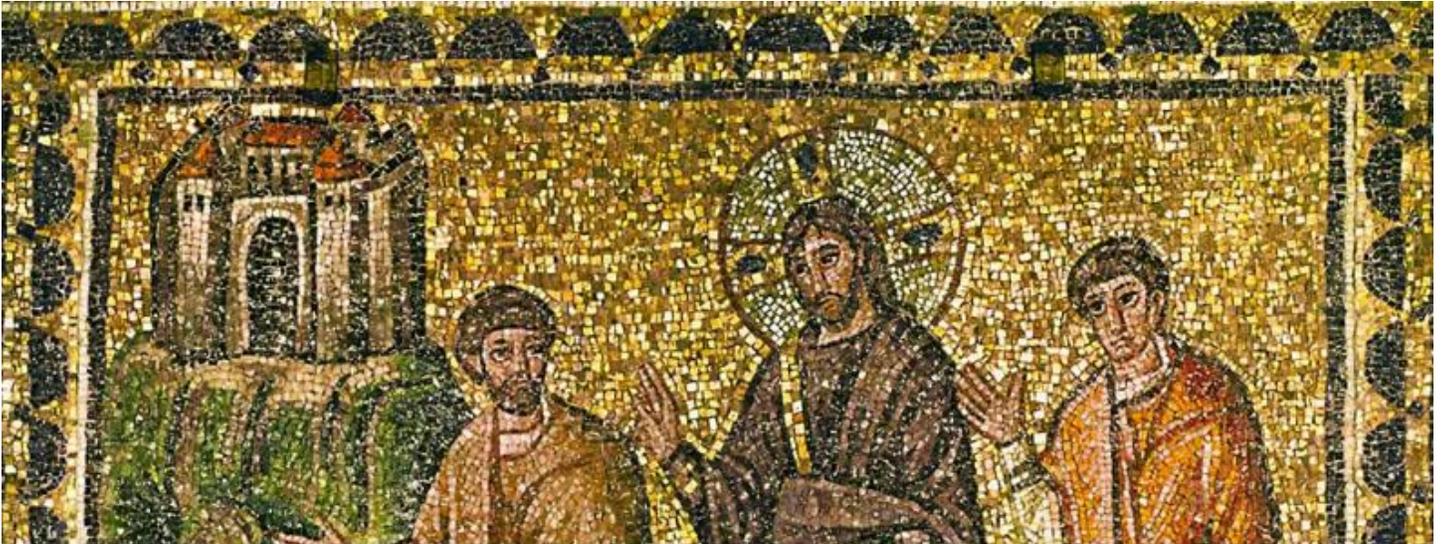




**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 24, 2020



Luke 24:45 "He Opened Their Minds" May 24 @ fpc

Christ appears to the Apostles on the way to Emmaus. Mosaic (6th Century)

SERVING THIS MORNING:

Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner
Worship Leader: Rebecca Goebel

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WiFi Network: FPC-WiFi Password: 620223318

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Let the righteous be joyful!
Let them rejoice before God.
Let us all be jubilant with joy!
Sing to God, all peoples of the world.
Sing praises to God most high.
From the sanctuary of heaven,
God gives life and renews the face of the earth.
Let the righteous be joyful!
Let them rejoice before God.
Let us all be jubilant with joy!

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Redeeming God,
you call us to be one with you,
as you are one with Christ.
As his perfect love casts out our fear,
and changes it to love,
unite us by your Spirit of peace,
that we may be one with you,
as you are one with Christ. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN:

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

#96

- 1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!***
- 2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of your name.***
- 3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.***
- 4. He breaks the power of cancelled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.***
- 5. To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.***

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

Brother and sisters,
God not only desires our repentance,
but longs to offer us forgiveness.
Therefore, cast all your anxiety on God,
because God cares for you eternally.

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Loving God,
we confess that we do not always bring honor and
glory to your name.
We are rebellious and weak;
we flee before your goodness.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us by the
grace and mercy of Christ,
that we may rise up again in peace to love and
serve your world. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#377

O Lord, have mercy, O Lord have mercy,
O Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ have mercy, O Christ have mercy,
O Christ have mercy, have mercy on us.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:**

Sisters and brothers,
the Spirit of God is resting on you,
to restore, support, and strengthen you.
Therefore, be at peace in the One who
forgives and loves you;
rise up and give God thanks.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of
God's grace and assurance of forgiveness.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
(We encourage you to share Christ's peace by texts and phone calls.)

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Redeeming God,
you call us to devote ourselves constantly to prayer
for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Therefore, let us offer our prayers this day
on behalf of your church and the world, saying,
fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.

Rescuing God, parent of orphans and protector of widows,
you give the desolate a home to live in
and lead out the prisoners into prosperity.
Help us to order the patterns of our common life
to support the health of your human family
and the welfare of your world.
Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.

Steadfast God, you have given to your church
the inheritance of faith in Christ alone,
and bestowed your Spirit's love upon us to make us one in you.
Help us to grow in strength and courage
to witness to this hope:
that all may find your saving love eternally in Christ.
Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.

Life-giving God, you send rain in abundance
to relieve the parched crops and thirsty land,
and make clean the winds of heaven.
Help us to find sustainable solutions
as we seek to honor and care for the well-being of your creation.
Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.

Loving God, you heard the sufferings of your people, listened to our cries,
and sent a Son into our world that was no stranger to our pain.
Help us to offer your healing and compassion
as we minister to others in the mercy of your Christ.
Fill us with your Spirit's power,
that we may be one with Christ, as Christ is one with you.

We pray for those near to us who need your strength and healing...(prayer cards)

Resurrecting God, you draw near to those who are sick and dying,
and you call them home to you.
May we all know the joy of life eternal shared with you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Spirit of Glory, Spirit of God,
bless us with a word of life this day
to restore, support, and strengthen us
as we seek to be one with you. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

SERMON:

"He Opened Their Minds"

Rev. Landon Whitsitt
Executive, Synod of Mid America

***A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (1983):**

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the holy One of Israel,
Whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by the word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal...**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES, OFFERINGS AND PW BIRTHDAY OFFERING

DOXOLOGY:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Glorious God, everything that is given to us
rains forth out of the abundance of your love, even Jesus Christ our Lord.
Bless these gifts and our lives together that all we are and all we offer give glory to you;
in the name of Christ, who is the way, truth, and life. **Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN:**

"The Blessing"

A Virtual Choir of Pittsburgh Congregations

*The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
Face toward you
And give you peace (repeat)*

*Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen*

*The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
Face toward you
And give you peace*

As we receive, we agree, amen

*Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen (amen, amen)
Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen*

*May His favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
Your family and your children
And their children, and their children*

*May His favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family and your children
And their children,...*

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Household Prayers

Morning

Delivering God,
you have safely brought me to this new day.
Keep me free from all dangers, perils, and troubles.
By the power of your Spirit,
strengthen my focus as I seek to follow Christ
and to humbly serve your truth. Amen.

Evening

Redeeming God, by your mighty hand
you have safely brought me to this night,
and for this and all other mercies, I give you thanks.
Post your angels around me this night
that I may rest in peace. Amen.