

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR B

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God always true,  
after you raised Jesus  
from death,  
you still let him  
work for us,  
though we cannot see him.  
Let us hear his voice  
as he speaks to us  
secretly in our prayers;  
let us feel him near us  
when we gather together  
in the church.  
Never leave us  
but keep close to us  
through Jesus,  
who lives with you  
forever and ever.

### FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The mission of the church is to call us to constant conversion and invite us to give witness to our faith in the Risen Lord.

Jesus, the Risen Lord, appears and proclaims peace and forgiveness, the good news of the Resurrection. He tells his disciples that all the writings of the Old Testament have pointed to this day and they are now witnesses to it. And he commands them to go out and call others to "change their lives and believe."

Our first reading finds Peter doing just that: proclaiming the Resurrection to those who killed Jesus. Yet, even to these, he proclaims, "now, change your lives... be forgiven."

FIRST READING: *Acts 3:13-15, 17-18*

*This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Peter said to the people:

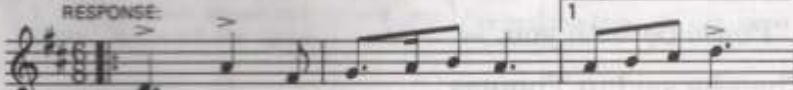
The God of our ancestors,  
Abraham, Jacob and Isaac,  
has now glorified Jesus.  
You took him to Pilate  
and accused him of things he didn't do.  
And even when Pilate wanted to free him,  
you said "No!"  
You asked Pilate to free a murderer  
instead of Jesus,  
who is good and holy.  
You killed the One who gives us eternal life!  
But God raised him up from the dead,  
and we have seen him!

But I know, my brothers and sisters,  
you didn't really understand  
what you were doing  
when you put Jesus to death.  
Your leaders didn't understand either.  
But now, be sorry for what you did  
and change your lives!  
Turn to God so your sins may be forgiven!

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

### RESPONSE: *Psalm 118*

RESPONSE:



This day was made by the Lord, let us re-joyce,



let us be glad! let us re-joyce in sal - va - tion.

VERSES: Leader



1. The stone which the build-ers re-ject-ed is the Cor-ner-stone,
2. You o-pen-ed the gates of heav-en, you have giv-en me

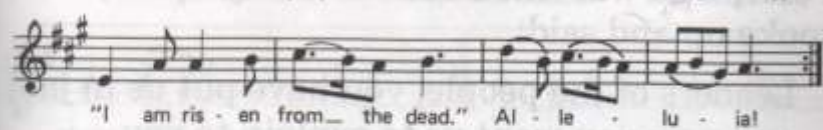
All: (clap) to Response



1. is the Cor-ner-stone. } I will pro-claim the won-ders you do!
2. //ife. You have giv-en me life.



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



## GOSPEL: Luke 24:35-48

*This is a reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

Two disciples  
who had met Jesus on the road to Emmaus  
came to tell others all that happened.  
They told them how they knew it was Jesus  
when he broke the bread.

While they were talking about all of this,  
suddenly Jesus was there and said to them,

"Peace be with you!"

They were so frightened  
that they thought they were seeing a ghost.  
But Jesus said to them,

"Why are you so frightened and confused?

Look at my hands and feet. Touch me.

A ghost doesn't have a body like I do.

I am really here!"

Even though the disciples  
were filled with joy and wonder,  
they still could not believe it. So Jesus said to them,

"Do you have anything here to eat?"

They gave him some cooked fish and he ate it.  
Then he said to them,

"Remember all the things that I told you before.  
Everything that was written in the law of Moses  
and in the prophets and psalms  
was really talking about me  
and all that would happen to me."

And Jesus helped the disciples  
to understand the Scriptures. He said to them,

"It is written that the Christ would suffer and die,  
but would rise from the dead on the third day.

In his name, everyone must be told  
that their sins are forgiven  
when they change their lives and believe.  
You are now witnesses to all of this."

*This is the Good News of the Lord.*

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

*After the Gospel,* ask the children to recall what they heard. You might help them with questions such as:

- Who was there?
- What did the two from Emmaus tell the others?
- What did Jesus say when he came?
- Why were the disciples frightened?
- What did Jesus say?
- What did Jesus do?

Ask the children to recall the first reading (you may wish to reread it).

- What did Peter tell those who killed Jesus?

*Summary:* Jesus rose from the dead to bring us peace and forgiveness and he asks us to bring peace and forgiveness to others. When we do that, we show that Jesus is here with us.

How can we bring Jesus' peace and forgiveness to others?