

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed! Eastertide is a period of 50 days, beginning on Easter Sunday and ending at Pentecost, when we celebrate the birth of the Church. During Eastertide, we celebrate the Risen Christ and imagine how we might live as Easter people. Rachel Held Evans wrote, "God showed us how to heal instead of kill, how to mend instead of destroy, how to love instead of hate, how to live instead of long for more. When we nailed God to a tree, God forgave. And when we buried God in the ground, God got up."



Scripture

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

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

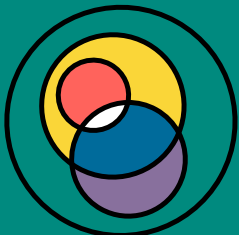


Questions

- During the season of Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and learn about being faithful disciples. Faithfulness is showing true and constant support or loyalty. How have you seen God's faithfulness recently?
- This story has three main parts. As a group, can you identify the three acts of the story?
- What would it feel like to retell this story as if you're a traveler talking to family? Describe your adventures on the road to Emmaus, speaking with a stranger, and finally eating a meal with Jesus.
- Faith is a gift from God, often shared through stories, meals, and time spent with people in our faith community. Share a time when you had faith in yourself to do something challenging. What helped you have faith?
- The travelers were shocked and overjoyed when Jesus revealed himself in the breaking of the bread. Describe a time when you needed hope and something happened to help you have hope in your situation.

Look it Up!

Did you know there are more than 200 types of bread available today? Look up the kind of bread eaten during Jesus' time. How does that bread compare to the bread or grain you eat?





Activity

In today's story, Cleopas and his fellow disciple encounter the resurrected Jesus, but they don't recognize him until they share a meal together. Around a shared table, the two disciples have a powerful faith experience. Discuss the following questions together.

- Who teaches you stories about Jesus?
- Who do you talk with about faith?
- Where and when have you felt the presence of Jesus or had a strong moment of faith?
- Who is in your community of faith?
- What meals remind you of Jesus?
- How can you share faith with others through meals, stories, and other means?

Have everyone think of a memory of a time when they heard someone share a story about faith with them (i.e. someone teaching them a story about Jesus from the Bible, talking to them about faith, or perhaps a moment when they felt Jesus' presence). Do your best to fully describe your faith story and bring it to life. Where and when did it happen? Who else was there? What was going on? How did the experience unfold? Why was it memorable?

Then, create a tableau of each person's faith experience memory as a group. A tableau is a dramatic staging of a scene, but without any action: a picture of a moment frozen in time, made up of real people and props. After you've had a chance to create scenes of each person's story, discuss together what stood out to you from the tableaux. How were they similar? How were they different?

Alternate Activity

Imagine you are the disciples in this story, traveling along the road to Emmaus when you encounter Jesus. Recount the story as if you are sharing the experience with family and friends. Use the Bible story booklet to name the sequence of events in the story. How would you tell it if it happened to you? Take turns being the two disciples telling the story of encountering Jesus and the listening family members. Family members can ask questions to help guide the story along.



Micropractice

The Spirit of Jesus is present at every meal we eat, even if we do not see him. So when you thank God for your meals this week, welcome Jesus to be with you during your meal.



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: illustrdm.in/minirevAEaster3



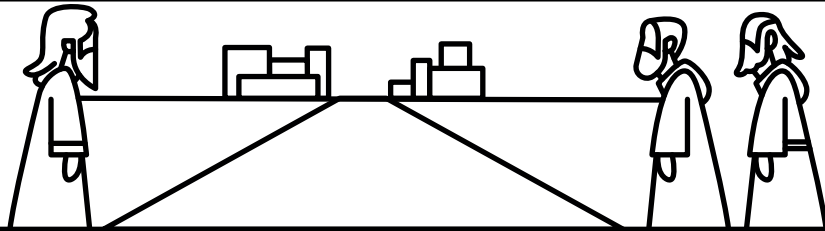
Prayer

Loving God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to be with us. Help us recognize Jesus' presence in our lives and in each other. Help us share Jesus' love with others through our words and actions. Amen.

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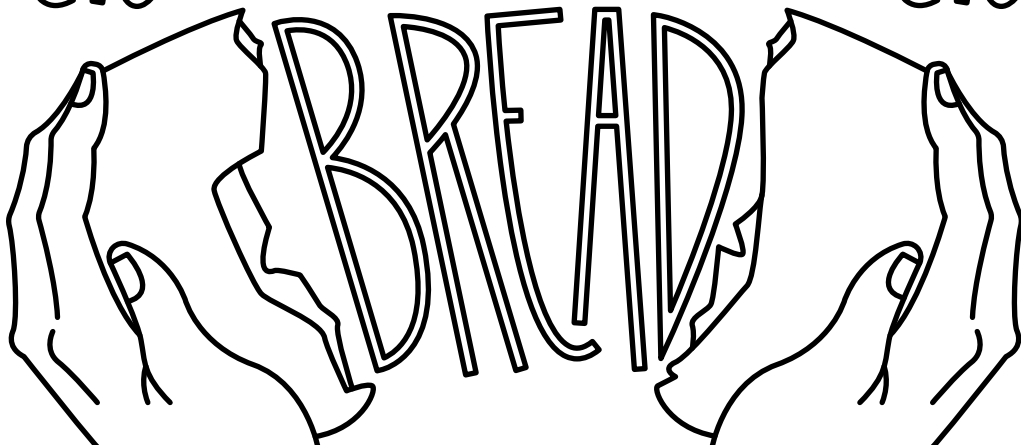
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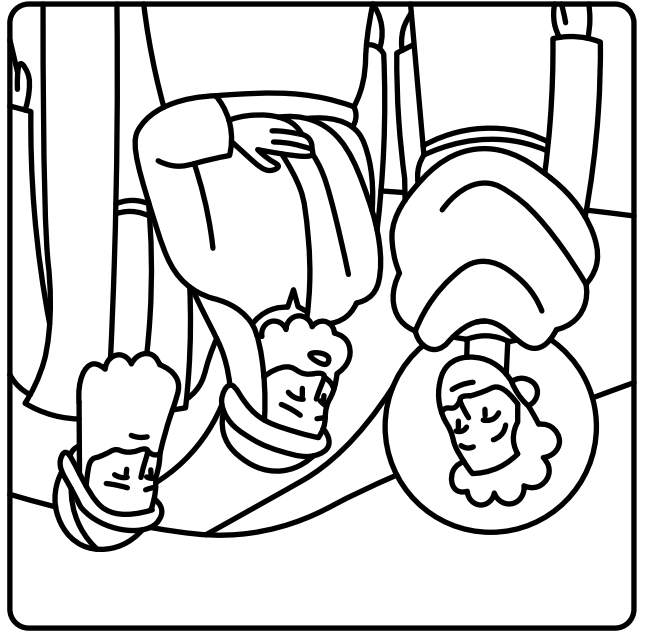
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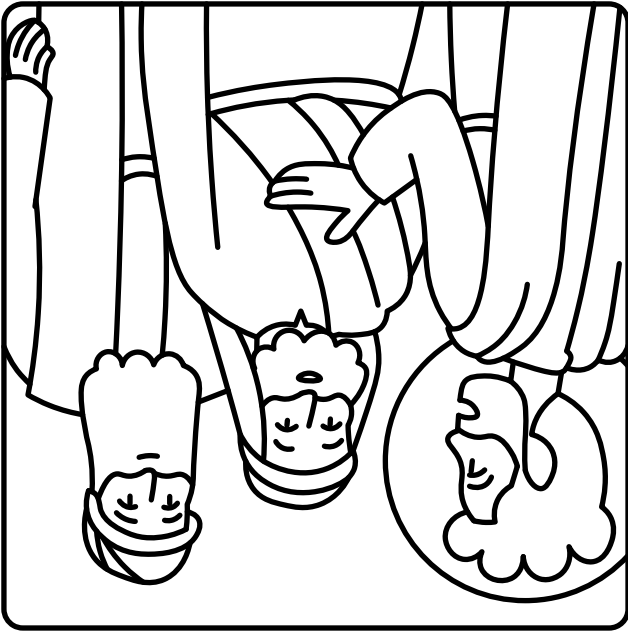


2. The traveler named Cleopas replied sadly, "Are you the only one who hasn't heard what happened in Jerusalem?" Jesus asked, "What happened?" Cleopas said, "Jesus of Nazareth, the mighty leader and teacher, was killed on a cross."



1. Two travelers were walking to Emmaus, a town near Jerusalem, discussing what had happened to Jesus. Jesus himself came up to them, but he hid the truth of who he was. He asked them, "What are you talking about?"

3. Cleopas continued, "We believed Jesus would save Israel. It's the third day since Jesus died; several women visited Jesus' tomb, found it empty, and they believe he is alive." Jesus replied, "Didn't Jesus have to die this way to save Israel?"



4. He then taught them many lessons from scripture. As they arrived in Emmaus, the travelers asked Jesus to eat with them. When Jesus blessed the bread, they suddenly recognized him! Later, the travelers excitedly told the disciples what had happened.