

# Planning



Sunday, April 23 – Saturday, April 29 • 2023

## Eyes of the Heart

As Jesus breaks bread with Emmaus companions and a community is transformed by Peter’s testimony to the risen Christ, we are inspired to open our hearts to new life in Christ.

### This week...

#### Ecumenical prayer calendar

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

As listed in *Pilgrim Prayer: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*, edited by Ester Pudjo Widiastih and Karen L. Bloomquist. (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2018). <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle> offers valuable aids for intercessory prayers, prayer on behalf of and in solidarity with others.

#### Special days (commentary on p. 128)

**April 23** – St. George

**April 24** – Armenian Martyrs’ Day

**April 25** – St. Mark

**April 25** – ANZAC Day (*Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia*)

#### Personal reflection

The fact that Jesus appears and disappears in this story and that we do not know the location of the town of Emmaus have led some scholars to speculate that the story may be a metaphor for the everyday moments when we encounter the risen Christ in our lives today.

- **When have you felt the risen Christ accompanying you?**
- **How important is this in the life of the church today?**
- **How can we be both followers of Jesus and followers of the way?**

*The planning page is provided in text format for copying, adapting, and adding to your bulletin or online worship resources or website or social media (see Text folder, Worship Outline).*

**April 23, 2023**

Easter 3

#### Revised Common Lectionary (Year A)

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19

1 Peter 1:17–23

**Luke 24:13–35**

the focus in age-level materials

**Liturgical colour** white or gold

#### Notes

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### Online Resources

#### Lection Connection

Essays and discussion prompts linking current events with this week’s scriptures. Use for sermon preparation, Bible studies, and small groups or share on social media at <https://www.seasonsonline.ca/10/>.

#### Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home

An easy-to-share, weekly online resource supports the spiritual lives and faith formation of individuals and families at home. It is provided in the [Nurturing Faith and Spirituality at Home](#) folder.





**Acts 2:14a, 36–41**

**Psalms 116:1–4, 12–19**

**1 Peter 1:17–23**

**Luke 24:13–35**

the focus in age-level materials

O God, you come and walk beside us. You accompany us into the unknown and challenge us to see the world with new eyes. Remind us of your vision, again and again. Amen.

# Eyes of the Heart

**B**iblical scholar John Dominic Crossan remarks, “Emmaus never happened,” clarifying that “Emmaus always happens.” We are given opportunities over and over again to see and be changed by the risen Christ. Now. Here. We are invited to see with new eyes.

In **Acts 2:14a, 36–41**, Peter and the other apostles proclaim to the gathered crowd the crucified Jesus. Peter tells the story. Recognizing the truth of what they hear, the listeners are “cut to the heart.” They ask how to respond. They are baptized and become some of the first members of the church.

The writer of **Psalms 116:1–4, 12–19** shares with Peter’s sermon a solid witness for God as One who saves. In verses 3–4, the writer recounts an experience of calling out to God, and responds to God’s answer to his call by giving thanks and witnessing to what God has done.

Those to whom the author of **1 Peter 1:17–23** writes have been born anew to life that lasts forever. They are encouraged to set their faith and hope on God and to love “deeply from the heart.” This trust leads to our capacity for “genuine mutual love.”

The exact location of Emmaus, where the two disciples see the risen Christ in **Luke 24:13–35**, is unknown. Emmaus may be anywhere. Hearts burning and eyes opening do not occur

in only one geographical or spiritual place. Emmaus comes into sight wherever a path leads us toward communion with God and whenever we recognize the risen Christ among us.

When Jesus joins the two travellers on the road, they do not recognize him immediately; perhaps their grief and loss blind them. When they offer Jesus hospitality, a sign of love, and when he blesses and breaks bread, the revelation happens, and they recognize the stranger with whom they have been walking and talking.

A transformation occurs within the travellers; they shift from standing still in a state of sadness to being “on fire” with hope. In great haste, they return to Jerusalem to tell the other followers of Jesus what they have experienced: Christ’s resurrection and their own.

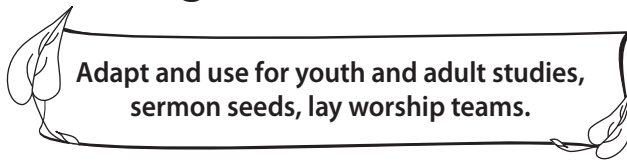
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Sometimes, our hearts are heavy with the burden of grief, sorrow, and anguish. We have been cut to the heart, but nothing changes, as it does for the crowds listening to Peter’s proclamation. Other times, our hearts can help us to see more grace and love.

“God comes to us disguised as our life,” Paula d’Arcy writes. We may fail or refuse to recognize how God is changing our hearts, believing we are on a road of our own making. We can be hardened, but God expands the vision of our hearts.



## Reflecting on the Word



### Connecting with life

Ponder this quotation from John Dominic Crossan: “Emmaus never happened. Emmaus always happens.”

- **What might Crossan be trying to say?**
- **How important to you is it that the biblical stories of resurrection be factual?**
- **How important to you is that the biblical stories of resurrection be metaphorical?**

### Scripture

**Acts 2:14a, 36–41** and **1 Peter 1:17–23** share a common understanding of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Both readings communicate an unwavering certainty that the events of Jesus’ life were not only foreshadowed by the Hebrew scriptures but were also necessary for salvation. The “Jews” listening to Peter’s testimony in Acts were convicted by this reality of salvation. In response, they confessed their sins and were baptized.

- **How might you explain God’s saving work to someone as you understand it?**
- **What has been your response to a growing awareness of God’s salvation?**

In response to Peter’s preaching earlier in the chapter, the people are “deeply troubled” (verse 37, *Common English Bible*) or “cut to the heart” (*New International Version, New Revised Standard Version*) or “acutely distressed” (*New English Translation*).

- **Why do you think this is their reaction?**
- Notice that Peter’s response in verses 38–40 encourages them, and some 3,000 respond.
- **What might have been your reaction to the sermon earlier in the chapter and to the words in verses 38–40?**

### Luke 24:13–35

Imagine you are one of the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus that day. Remember, this story takes place on Easter Sunday afternoon. Some women told you this morning that Jesus was risen, but you know that can’t be true. Now, read the story.

- **At what point in the story might a light bulb have gone on for you?**
- **What might it have felt like to hear this “stranger” explain faith history as you walked on the road?**
- **When has someone outlined a piece of history as a way to make a present point?**

Jesus meets the travellers on the road and in their need he gives them space to speak and space to be themselves; recognition comes in its own way and in its own time. Jesus’ questions typically invite us to become more aware of what is happening within and beyond us.

- **What questions can we ask that might help people recognize Jesus in their lives and in our world today?**
- **In whom do you recognize Jesus?**
- **What has it been about them that has led to this recognition? (actions? words? qualities?)**
- **In what ways do you recognize the presence of God in your own life?**

In all readings for this week, the writers convey a sense of urgency and describe moments of crisis.

- **At what points of crisis are our faith community and our society?**
- **How can we discern what Jesus is saying to us in those places? What can we do?**

### Connecting scripture and life

Listen to India Arie’s “Eyes of the Heart (Radio’s Song).” You can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9iFYEHIMj0>.

- **What feels most true to you in these lyrics?**
- **What does it help you to see in the texts for this week?**

## Focus for Worship, Learning, and Serving

For people who want to know how Christ is with them today, this story provides a wonderful reminder that we can feel Jesus with us without having him physically there.

For those who may struggle with some of the “facts” of the Resurrection, this story can help us realize that that is not the point – the point is an awareness of the risen Christ with us in the things we are doing and facing today.

For those that still doubt and wonder, there is an opportunity in this week’s worship to take bread, break it and open ourselves to how we might see the world and ourselves differently. Heighten the experiences of that awareness with the smells, tastes, and sounds of sharing bread. Pay attention to how the table is set and, most importantly, who are invited to feast.



# Eyes of the Heart

## Prepare

**NOTE:** The following suggestions are mere starting points. You are invited to adapt, delete, add according to your local needs and context. If a community is gathered in person, they may speak the **bolded** lines. If worshippers are not physically present, consider having a different individual say the bolded responses. Instructions are *italicized*.

- ❑ Recruit volunteers needed for worship: a soloist or small group to sing as people gather; 1 for the call to worship; 2 for the Acts and 1 Peter reading; 2 for the “Breaking Bread Together” option.
- ❑ Choose an option for hearing Luke 24:13–35. For the Bible story, arrange for a storyteller to present “On the Way to Emmaus” on p. 130. Alternatively, for younger children, arrange for a storyteller to present “Jesus Is with Us” in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week’s materials. For the oral reading, arrange for someone to tell their own memorized, paraphrased story while kneading bread dough.
- ❑ Bring items for setting the worship space.
- ❑ You might choose to print Alleluia on or in your bulletin (in the Images to Project and Images for Printing folders). See “Connecting with the Art” on p. 8 for background to the art and artist.
- ❑ Bring song such as “Jesus Put This Song Into Our Hearts” (*Seasons Songbook, vol. 2, #31 on Seasons Music CD, vol. 2*). Printed music and recording are also available for purchase and download at [https://www.seasonsonline.ca/order\\_products/](https://www.seasonsonline.ca/order_products/).
- ❑ Set stations as described on pp. 131–132.

**Breaking the bread together** This would be a wonderful day to share in a celebration of Communion. If using the oral telling option for the gospel reading, you might have the bread kneaded during the telling to be a flatbread, which could be ready in time for Communion and fill the space with the freshness of baked bread. See “Breaking Bread Together” on p. 129.



## Music Suggestions

### Alleluia

Traditional; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 9*

### Strength for the Journey

John Poirier; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 9*

### At the Table of the World

Brian Wren, Carl Johengen; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 8*

### We Come to the Hungry Feast

Ray Makeever; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 6*

### Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

Ruth Duck; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 5*

### Sing Alleluia!

Monica Brown; *Seasons Songbook, vol. 3*



A chart that shows the licence holder(s) for each song in each of the 9 *Seasons of the Spirit* Music Volumes can be found at [www.seasonsonline.ca](http://www.seasonsonline.ca). Click on Library; Seasons Music Information. Please contact a licence holder for permission to duplicate.

## Gather

### Call to worship

*Have someone perform the suggested movements during the spoken call to worship. Provide time to pause as the motions are enacted, and a pose is struck.*

Friends of God,

we come into the presence of God to be stilled in heart  
(*cross hands over heart*).

**We come to be inspired through imagination**

(*cross hands over forehead*).

**With believing hands, we reach out to receive**

(*cup hands in front of body*).

**With eyes opened**

**to new perspectives**

(*extend cupped hands outward and cast vision outwards beyond extended hands*),

**we will learn how to live in**

**the free and spirited ways of Christ**

(*lift hands up and over head, then bring down to the side one at a time; light the white pillar candle in silence*).

### Opening prayer

God of broad earth and deep sky,

of wholesome bread and delicious wine,

you delight us with your nearness.

You astonish us through the ordinary ways,

you make yourself known.

May delight enrich our worship,

so that gratitude carries us onto roads of grace, goodness, and compassion.



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## Worship Outline • April 23, 2023

### Prayer of confession

When all seems lost and circumstances leave us feeling empty and afraid;

God of unwavering hope,  
**may your words of life burn within our hearts.**  
*(silent reflection)*

When trust seems impossible, and our eyes remain tightly closed to the constant breaking in of Spirit;

God of unwavering faith,  
**may your words of life burn within our hearts.**  
*(silent reflection)*

When our spirits feel dry and listless and where hurt or resentment creates barriers to human care and friendship;

God of unwavering love,  
**may your words of life burn within our hearts.**  
*(silent reflection)*

### Words of affirmation

Fellow travellers,  
alive to God's constant word of faith, hope, and love,  
may we journey into life in new ways.  
May we take God's gift of presence, peace, and forgiveness to heart.  
Receive it gladly.  
Live it with passion and boldness.

Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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## Engage

### Opening the word

**Acts 2:14a, 36–41** and **1 Peter 1:20–23**

Reading these two passages together amplifies and expands Peter's speech with the conviction and witness of the apostle writing to the early church. Have two readers combine the readings from preferred translations, reading verses in this order:

Acts 2:14a, 2:36  
1 Peter 1:20–21  
Acts 2:37–38  
1 Peter 1:22–23  
Acts 2:39–41

**Luke 24:13–35** *the focus scripture for age-level materials in ENCORE*

Choose from the following.

**Bible story** Arrange for a storyteller to present "On the Way to Emmaus" on p. 130. Alternatively, for younger children, tell the story "Jesus Is with Us" (in Exploring Our Faith at the end of this week's materials).

**Oral telling** Arrange for a storyteller to tell this story from memory while kneading bread dough. Imagine this person is the one who baked the bread and is retelling the story from what they heard as it was shared.

**Seeing with our hearts** These questions might be posed as meditative reflection or as sermon prompts.

- **What cuts to the heart to cause change?**
- **What does your heart see that your eyes do not?**
- **How is your heart slow to believe?**
- **What burns in your heart right now?**
- **When has your heart led you to love deeply?**

**If gathering in person, invite children, young people, and all who wish to move to the stations. Others will remain seated for proclaiming the word. For those participating at home, you might encourage them to use materials that have been sent.**

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## Respond

Sing or listen to a song such as "Jesus Put This Song into Our Hearts" as people gather again (*Seasons Songbook, vol. 2, #31* on *Seasons Music CD, vol. 2*. Printed music and recording are also available for purchase and download at [https://www.seasonsonline.ca/order\\_products/](https://www.seasonsonline.ca/order_products/)).

### Breaking the bread together

This would be a wonderful day to share in a celebration of Communion. If using the oral telling option for the gospel reading, you might have the bread kneaded during the telling to be a flatbread and be ready in time for Communion, filling the space with the freshness of baked bread. See "Breaking Bread Together" on p. 129.





## Prayers of the people

*Provide at least thirty seconds of silence between each stanza for reflection.*

Bread for all,  
bread in all,  
we pray, O God:  
**when we are orphaned,  
hungry, oppressed.** *(silence)*

Faith for all,  
faith in all,  
we pray, O God:  
**to recognize faith in other ways, other texts,  
and other worshipping communities.** *(silence)*

Grace for all,  
grace in all,  
we pray, O God:  
**when we are estranged,  
alienated, scorned.** *(silence)*

Wisdom for all,  
wisdom in all,  
we pray, O God:  
**when we are disabled,  
neglected, impoverished.** *(silence)*

Spirit for all,  
Spirit in all,  
we pray, O God:  
**for Mother Earth, our children,  
and a shared, common future.**  
Amen.

## Prayer of dedication or offering prayer

Giver of life,  
in the same way, bread is broken and shared for the benefit  
of all,  
so might our offerings of money, time, and giftedness be a  
breaking open of abundant love to the world. Amen.

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## Bless

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May you go into the world with your hearts burning.  
May you find the slow wonder of God greet your heart in  
new and surprising ways.

May your eyes be open enough to love deeply from a mutual  
heart, for this is how God loves you.  
Go into the world with love and joy, for God's peace always  
goes with us.

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## Special Days Commentary

### April 23 – St. George

George is believed to have been a soldier who was martyred in Lydda, Palestine, during the Diocletian persecution about 304 CE. While legend says that George slew a dragon, some authorities believe he was confused with St. Michael, who was usually depicted wearing armour in religious icons or was mistakenly identified with Perseus, a mythological character from the area of Lydda who is said to have slain a sea monster. George replaced Edward the Confessor as patron saint of England following the Crusades when returning soldiers brought back with them a renewed devotion to St. George.

### April 24 – Armenian Martyrs' Day

On April 24 of each year, people remember the series of massacres on Armenian Christians that took place in Turkey between 1894 and 1915. Over one and one-half million people were killed, more than 6000 of whom were clergy.

### April 25 – St. Mark

According to Acts 12, Mark (or John Mark) accompanied his cousin Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey to Perga. Later, he went to Cyprus with Barnabas and to Rome with first Paul and then Peter, thus earning his title "Evangelist." The gospel attributed to Mark is generally recognized as the earliest and is the shortest of the accounts of Jesus' life. It is thought to have been written while Mark was in Rome and may have been based as much on Peter's preaching as on Mark's memory of the events.

### April 25 – ANZAC Day (*Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia*)

The anniversary of the World War I landing of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps on Gallipoli in 1915 serves as an opportunity to honour the past and recommit ourselves to working for peace and justice in the present and future.



# Breaking Bread Together

*Use this experience of communion to respond to the focus scripture. You might find some additional inspiration for your celebration in “Communion Prayers” on page 10.*

*Raise the Communion loaf and have two voices repeat the response below when indicated.*

## Response

**ONE:** Hold bread

**TWO:** Hold Christ

**ONE:** Break bread

**TWO:** Recognize Christ

**ONE:** Taste bread

**TWO:** Know Christ

There, around a table with a friend from the road, companions talked and wondered and found the stories of heaven on their lips. The sharing of love spilled out of them as one story held forth a further story, each word a holy echo from beyond, planted in the world. And as they spoke, they hungered for food and for truth. Their friend lifted the bread in the middle of a memory. As he tore it, light spilled out, memory danced, and eyes were opened as recognition gasped. *(Response)*

All heaven was sucked into the room and, where no words were possible, eyes met, hearts pounded, hands held, and Jesus was there again. They were sharing their story and unfolding a new one: resurrection in the breaking of bread; community in the discovery of familiarity; truth in the disclosure of love. *(Response)*

And that moment is alive for us too. This bread is the bread of resurrection. This wine is the cup of sharing. This table is the table of identity. This place is the place of encounter. Come to share the stories of love again and see the God who invests them with promise. Come with eyes open and hearts beating in the knowledge that Christ is here, waiting, whose hands hold the bread and lift the cup and who gives us the words to give the world. *(Response)*

Our being here is our thanksgiving. Our storytelling sets this bread and wine apart for no other use. Our words become our prayers and our longing to be here a symbol of unity in Christ’s body. Holy, holy, holy God, God of all power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest. *(Response)*



# On the Way to Emmaus

Based on Luke 24:13–35

**O**n the morning of the Resurrection, two companions were making their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

This journey would take them approximately 11 kilometres/7 miles. The two companions were talking about all that had happened and were discussing the events of the day with each other.

We know from scripture that one was called Cleopas. As they were talking, a third traveller came alongside them. It was Jesus, but the two companions did not recognize him. The Bible does not tell us why. Perhaps, their grief over losing Jesus had clouded their thoughts and vision both physically and spiritually.

The stranger asked the two travellers what they were talking about as they travelled this road together. Their faces were sullen.

Cleopas replied, “Are you just a visitor? Do you know what events have happened in Jerusalem over the last few days?” “What events?” asked Jesus.

“The events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “Jesus was powerful, and the presence of God was with him. He was able to perform many miracles. He was handed over to the Romans to be sentenced and ultimately crucified. We thought Jesus would free Israel from the oppression of Rome.

“Some of the women that followed Jesus went to the tomb this morning, but they didn’t find his body. Mary Magdalene

says she saw Jesus, that he is alive! Some men followed and found his tomb empty, but they didn’t see Jesus.”

The stranger answered, “Didn’t the prophets say that the Messiah would suffer and that his suffering would lead to a path of glory?”

They arrived in Emmaus, but the stranger continued. It seemed he had further to go.

“It is nearly dark. Come and stay with us,” urged Cleopas. As this third traveller sat at the table, he took the bread, gave God thanks, broke the bread, and began to pass the bread to the two.

At this moment, their eyes were open to what was before them. It was Jesus who had travelled with them! When all hope seemed lost, Jesus had travelled alongside. And it was Jesus who was breaking the bread.

Suddenly, Jesus was gone.

“How could we not know this was Jesus? Weren’t his words touching our souls as we journeyed to Emmaus? We must go back to Jerusalem at once.”

Arriving in Jerusalem, they found the others and told them about what happened on their journey home and how they recognized Jesus when he broke the bread.

*(Pause.)*

I wonder what the others thought about all of this.

A recording of this story is available in MP3 format in the Audio Stories folder.



## Bible story

### Materials

- Basic supplies
- Paper or drawing pads
- Recording of today’s story “[On the Way to Emmaus](#)”
- Alternatively, arrange for a storyteller to present the story

## The practice of storytelling

### Directions

1. Listen to the story “On the Way to Emmaus.”
2. Use the art supplies to draw or write about your response to the story.





## Living, Learning, Growing as Disciples

The following stations might be set up around your worship space, or in other places around the church, in your home, or outdoors. Choose one or more practices, depending on your space and numbers. Display the directions for all to see onscreen or in person. Adapt stations for use when physically distancing and above all, follow the safe practices of your congregation and local health officials.

**For your convenience, directions are formatted for printing and available in the Stations folder.**

### Health and Safety Practices

**Basic supplies** pens, pencils, markers, crayons, white glue/glue sticks, scissors, hand sanitizer, wipes placed in a basket or bin, two containers marked "clean" and "used"

**Setting the space** Utilize large spaces where people can maintain a safe physical distance. Spread out chairs around a large table or use tape to mark off the space around stand alone chairs.

**Keep it clean** Wipe down and disinfect places used for stations. Provide enough arts and crafts supplies to reduce sharing and mark containers "clean" and "used." Remind people to use hand sanitizer as they begin and as they end stations.

### Thank you cards

#### Materials

- Basic supplies
- Stationery



**Suitable for all ages working together**

#### The practice of gratitude

##### Directions

1. Think of three people who have walked alongside you on your journey of faith and made a difference to that journey, whether for a few hours or a few years. Encourage younger children to think about one person who shows you Jesus' way of love.
2. Make thank you cards to send to each of them. You might like to write how the person helped you.
3. Place each card in an envelope and place a stamp on it, ready for mailing.

### Finger Painting Joy

#### Materials

- Fingerpaints
- Silicone pastry brushes
- Small textured balls
- Paper or white butcher block paper roll
- Hand sanitizer or wipes



**Suitable for all ages**

#### The practice of expression

##### Directions

- When the disciples recognized Jesus, they were filled with joy. Use the fingerpaints to create the joy that fills your heart when you recognize Jesus in yourselves and others.
1. Reflect on where you've found love and how you might reveal your joy for this love in paint and the materials provided.
  2. If working together on a large sheet of butcher paper, share your joy with others around you as you create.



## Multi-coloured wonder

### Materials

- Basic supplies
- Cardboard paper rolls
- Cellophane or plastic wrap in bright colours
- Rubber bands
- Scissors
- Pipe cleaners



Suitable for  
all ages

### The practice of looking

#### Directions

The disciples' eyes were opened in the breaking of the bread. They were able to see differently. Change your perspective by looking at the world in different colours.

1. Choose two cardboard rolls and decorate with the materials provided.
2. Cut 2 squares of cellophane in different colours.
3. Place cellophane square over one end of the cardboard roll and secure it with a rubber band.
4. Repeat on the second decorated roll.
5. As desired, use pipe cleaners to attach the two rolls to create glasses or binoculars.
6. Look at the world around you with your new coloured glasses. What do you notice?

## Tasting goodness

### Materials

- Baskets full of breads of all kinds, including labelled gluten-free options
- Butter (optional)
- Small bowls of olive oil (optional)
- Knives
- Hand sanitizer and wipes



Suitable for  
all ages

### The practice of savouring

#### Directions

We taste the goodness of God each time we share Communion. The disciples, too, were changed in the sharing of bread. Experience the goodness of nourishing your body with bread of all different kinds.

1. Smell each bread. Explore its texture and finally taste each bread.
2. Sample with bread or oil, as desired.
3. As you savour these new flavours, contemplate:
  - **What tastes like resurrection?**
  - **How do you know when something tastes good?**
  - **What makes resurrection real in the breaking of the bread?**

*The article "Connecting with the Art" on page 8 provides background to this season's posters and art engagement ideas for individuals and groups. You might add an Art station and select one of the art engagement ideas.*



Story and activities for the very young to use in church or at home.

# Jesus Is with Us

## A story based on Luke 24:13–35

One day, two friends of Jesus were walking along a dusty road. They were on their way to a little town called Emmaus. They were very sad because their dear friend, Jesus, had died and they missed him very much. As they walked along, a man came up beside them. "May I walk with you?" the man asked.

"Yes," the two friends said, "please walk with us."

As the three people walked together, the man asked, "What makes you so sad?"

The two friends looked at the man with amazement. "Haven't you heard? Our good friend Jesus has died. We miss him so much."

As they continued to walk down the road, the man told the two friends many stories about God. And the two friends listened and listened as they walked along.

When they arrived in Emmaus, the two friends said to the man, "Please be our guest. Come in and stay with us."

When they sat at the table, their guest took the bread, said a prayer and broke the bread just like Jesus used to do. Suddenly, the two friends realized this was Jesus! Until then, they had not recognized him.

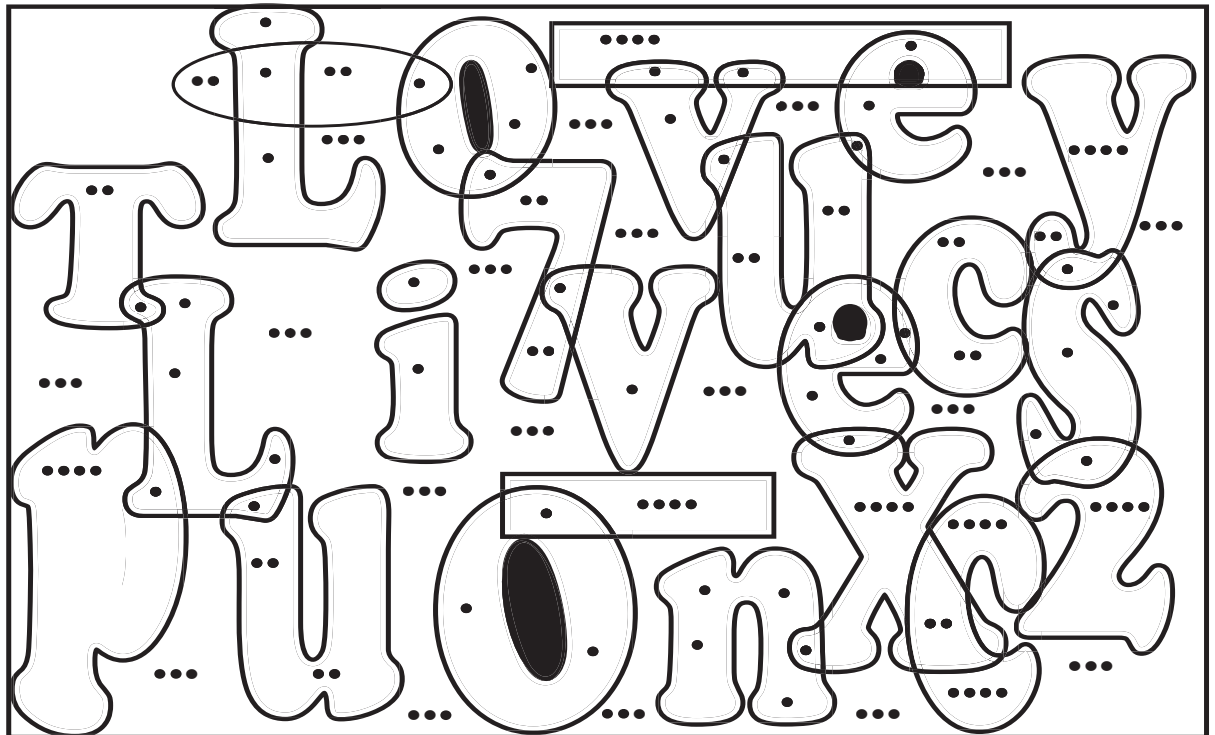
The two friends were so excited they had to tell everyone the good news. They didn't care that it was almost dark. They didn't care that they were hungry. They didn't care that they had just walked a long way. They jumped up from the table, went out the door, and back to Jerusalem. They didn't walk; they ran! "Alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus is still with us," they shouted to everyone who would listen.

## Puzzle

When the guest at Emmaus broke bread, the friends recognized Jesus. Use the code to show what the friends discovered when their guest broke the bread.

Code:

- green
- blue
- yellow
- red



Two friends rushed immediately to tell their friends about Jesus being alive. Can you think of any other times when people rushed to tell those they knew about

Jesus? Draw a picture of how you can share the good news that Jesus is with us always.

