

**Sunday, April 23, 2023**

**The Third Sunday of Easter or Good Shepherd Sunday**

- 1) Acts 2:14, 22b-28
- 2) 1 Peter 1:17-21
- 3) Luke 24:13-35

**FOCUS:** Scripture confirms Jesus' identity as the only Begotten Son of God.

To appreciate who Jesus is in God's plan of salvation, we must look to the Hebrew Scriptures – the written word of God fulfilled by Jesus, the Word of God become flesh. With gratitude and the deepest of appreciation that we have been redeemed by Jesus, the *spotless unblemished lamb*, let us strive to build up the kingdom of God on earth each day by living as faithful disciples of Jesus.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The first reading from Acts recounts Peter explaining to the crowd that Jesus is the Messiah promised by God, sitting on David's throne. In the second reading, we are reminded that Jesus is the lamb whose *precious blood* has ransomed us from sin. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals himself to two disciples who were traveling to Emmaus *in the breaking of the bread*.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

PRIEST: Exultant with Easter joy, let us offer our heavenly Father our petitions for ourselves and our world.

- 1) For the faithful throughout the world, that we might be a sign to those we encounter of the living Christ and his sacrificial love for all of us, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For our elected officials, that they might embrace their role as servant leaders and strive to work for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For those who are sick, may God restore them to the fullness of life and health, and liberate them from all that afflicts them, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those who were received into the Church at Easter, that they might remain open to the many ways that Jesus manifests himself in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may they come to enjoy the fullness of life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Loving God, hear and answer our prayers and grant us the grace needed to keep our feet firmly planted on the path to life. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.