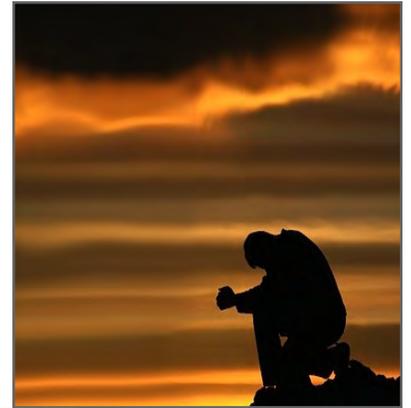


# Family Worship, Family Faith



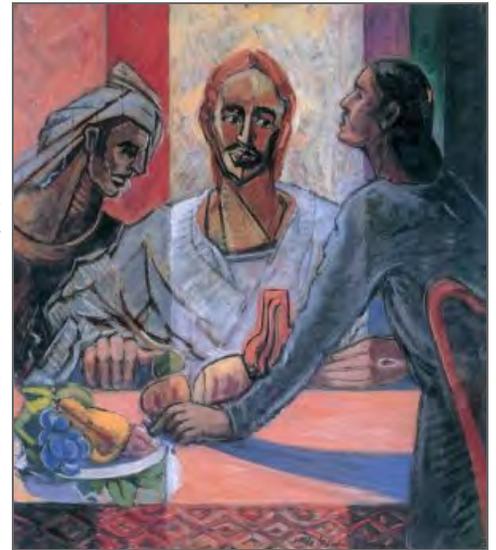
365 Bible Devotions  
For Individuals, Couples, Families or Groups  
The Rev. Dr. Brad Munroe

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed.

### The Word

Luke 24:13-31, 35 (*Jesus is known in Word and sacrament*)

On the same day, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus. It was about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. 15 While they were talking, Jesus approached them and began walking with them. 16 Although they saw him, they didn't recognize him. 17 He asked them, "What are you discussing?" They stopped and looked very sad. 18 One of them, Cleopas, replied, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who doesn't know what has happened recently?" 19 "What happened?" he asked. They said to him, "We were discussing what happened to Jesus from Nazareth. He was a powerful prophet in what he did and said in the sight of God and all the people. 20 Our chief priests and rulers had him condemned to death and crucified. 21 We were hoping that he was the one who would free Israel. What's more, this is now the third day since everything happened. 22 Some of the women from our group startled us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 and didn't find his body. They told us that they had seen angels who said that he's alive. 24 Some of our men went to the tomb and found it empty, as the women had said, but they didn't see him." 25 Then Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are! You're so slow to believe everything the prophets said! 26 Didn't the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 *Then he began with Moses' Teachings and the Prophets to explain to them what was said about him throughout the Scriptures.* 28 *When they came near the village where they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther.* 29 They urged him, "Stay with us! It's getting late, and the day is almost over." So he went to stay with them. 30 *While he was at the table with them, he took bread and blessed it. He broke the bread and gave it to them.* 31 *Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. But he vanished from their sight...* 35 Then the two disciples told what had happened on the road and how they had recognized Jesus when he broke the bread.



### GWNBS

#### The Reflection

What is most meaningful to you about receiving communion? How do you recognize Jesus in communion?

#### The Prayer

Living God, who raised Jesus from the dead, in Holy Communion you share with us your presence. Forgive us, Living God, for all the ways your people fuss and fight about how you are present while ignoring the miracle and mystery that you *are* present. Help us to see you when we share your joyous feast; may our hearts burn for you in the sacrament in ways that lead us to serve you in all of our lives.

#### The Blessing

May the God of Peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working among you that which is pleasing in God's sight.

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed.

## The Word

Luke 24:36-53 (*The resurrected Lord reviews the essentials of the gospel*)

And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them, and greeted them. 37 The whole group was terribly frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost! 38 "Why are you frightened?" he asked. "Why do you doubt that it is really I? 39 Look at my hands! Look at my feet! You can see that it is I, myself! Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost! For ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do!" 40 As he spoke, he held out his hands for them to see [the marks of the nails], and showed them [the wounds in] his feet. 41 Still they stood there undecided, filled with joy and doubt. Then he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he ate it as they watched! 44 Then he said, "When I was with you before, don't you remember my telling you that everything written about me by Moses, the prophets and in the Psalms must all come true?" 45 Then he opened their minds to understand at last these many Scriptures! 46 And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah must suffer and die and rise again from the dead on the third day; 47 and that this message of salvation should be taken from Jerusalem to all the nations: There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me. 48 You have seen these prophecies come true. 49 "And now I will send the Holy Spirit upon you, just as my Father promised. Don't begin telling others yet—stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven." 50 Then Jesus led them out along the road to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them, 51 and then began rising into the sky, and went on to heaven. 52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem filled with mighty joy, 53 and were continually in the Temple, praising God.



TLB

## The Reflection

Jesus summarizes the gospel: all was written in Moses and the Prophets; Messiah must die; Messiah will rise again; salvation and forgiveness are in his name; this good news must go to all nations; the Holy Spirit will be given to fulfill this work. Which of these points seems most significant to you?

## The Prayer

Living God, who raised Jesus from the dead, so often we experience joy and doubt together: is the blessing you give really ours? Is the struggle we know one that will lead to growth? Do you really call us your beloved? O Living God, help us to believe even when we doubt, and may our doubts call us forward toward a deeper believing, that the joy of life with you will grow deeper, wider and more profound.

## The Blessing

May the God of Peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working among you that which is pleasing in God's sight.

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed.

### The Word

John 20:3-18 (*Jesus points Mary toward the new creation*)

Peter and the other disciple were going to the tomb. 4 And the two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first; 5 and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. 6 Simon Peter therefore also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he beheld the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the face-cloth, which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb entered then also, and he saw and believed. 9 For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. 10 So the disciples went away again to their own homes. 11 But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; 12 and she beheld two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. 13 And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around, and beheld Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). 17 *Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"* 18 *Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.*



NASB

### The Reflection

Did Peter believe the resurrection had occurred or just that the body was gone? Why do you think it was so difficult for Peter to understand what had happened? How did Mary's words change Peter?

### The Prayer

Living God, who raised Jesus from the dead, whenever we are sad, speak out our name. Speak to us your true name and our own, that we may be assured that with you there is life; with you all is well; with you all will be well, even unto the new day you are bringing.

### The Blessing

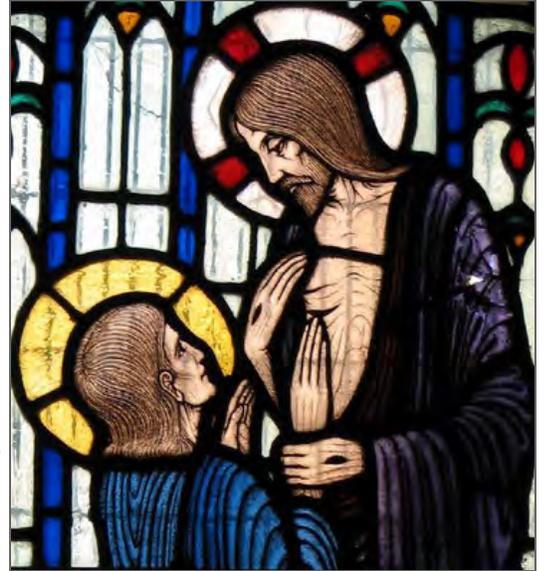
May the God of Peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working among you that which is pleasing in God's sight.

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed.

## The Word

John 20:19-31 (*Doubt is allowed; faith is affirmed*)

At evening on that day, the first day of the week, when, for fear of the Jews, the doors were shut where the disciples were, Jesus came among them and said to them, May peace be with you! 20 And when he had said this, he let them see his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 And Jesus said to them again, May peace be with you! As the Father sent me, even so I now send you. 22 And when he had said this, breathing on them, he said to them, Let the Holy Spirit come on you: 23 Any to whom you give forgiveness, will be made free from their sins; and any from whom you keep back forgiveness, will still be in their sins. 24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, named Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples said to him, We have seen the Lord. But he said to them, *If I do not see in his hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails, and if I do not put my hand into his side, I will never have belief.* 26 And after eight days, his disciples were again in the house and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were shut, Jesus came, and taking his place in the middle of them, he said, May peace be with you! 27 Then he said to Thomas, *Put out your finger, and see my hands; and put your hand here into my side: and be no longer in doubt but have belief.* 28 *And Thomas said in answer, My Lord and my God!* 29 *Jesus said to him, Because you have seen me you have belief: a blessing will be on those who have belief though they have not seen me!* 30 A number of other signs Jesus did before his disciples which are not recorded in this book: 31 But these are recorded, so that you may have faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and so that, having this faith you may have life in his name.



BBE

## The Reflection

What helps you believe? If asked, could you tell someone the reasons you believe? What would you say?

## The Prayer

Living God, who raised Jesus from the dead, raise us up to serve you. Breathe your Holy Spirit upon us that we may have strength for today and peace for all days. Help us to believe even when we do not see! And whether we see the signs of your presence or merely trust your promise of presence, may we bow to worship your name, Jesus, the Living God!

## The Blessing

May the God of Peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working among you that which is pleasing in God's sight.

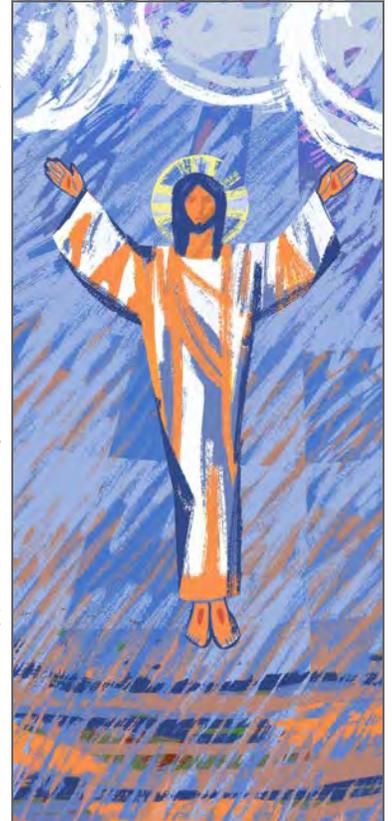
He who raised Jesus from the dead has the power to raise us up to newness of life! Therefore, let us worship the Lord!

### The Word

Acts 1:1-11 (*We are Christ's witnesses to the four corners of the earth*)

Theophilus, I first wrote to you about all that Jesus did and taught from the very first 2 until he was taken up to heaven. But before he was taken up, he gave orders to the apostles he had chosen with the help of the Holy Spirit. 3 For forty days after Jesus had suffered and died, he proved in many ways that he had been raised from death. He appeared to his apostles and spoke to them about God's kingdom. 4 While he was still with them, he said: Don't leave Jerusalem yet. Wait here for the Father to give you the Holy Spirit, just as I told you he has promised to do. 5 John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. 6 While the apostles were still with Jesus, they asked him, "Lord, are you now going to give Israel its own king again?" 7 Jesus said to them, "You don't need to know the time of those events that only the Father controls. 8 *But the Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world.*" 9 After Jesus had said this and while they were watching, he was taken up into a cloud. They could not see him, 10 but as he went up, they kept looking up into the sky. Suddenly two men dressed in white clothes were standing there beside them. 11 They said, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here and looking up into the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven. But he will come back in the same way that you have seen him go."

CEV



### The Reflection

Where do you imagine that heaven is located? How does Jesus' physical absence require trust in his spiritual presence?

### The Prayer

O Living Christ, with you we are united both in death and the newness of life through our baptism, you left us physically but did not leave us alone. You sent the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, to continue your ministry: to teach and to convict, to give courage and fill with compassion, to lead us into the freedom that is found through salvation and service. Thank you, O Living Christ, for we praise your name this day.

### The Blessing

May the God of Life, who brings new creation to those who trust in him, bring to us all the fullness of him who lived and who died, who died and who was raised, who was raised and who reigns forevermore.

The Lord is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed.

## The Word

John 21:3-17 (*Jesus restores Peter to fellowship and ministry*)

That night the disciples went fishing and caught nothing. 4 But when day had already come, Jesus stood on the beach, yet the disciples didn't know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus therefore said to them, "Children, have you anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." 6 He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." They cast it therefore, and now they weren't able to draw it in for the multitude of fish. 7 That disciple therefore whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around him (for he was naked), and threw himself into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from the land, but about two hundred cubits away), dragging the net full of fish. 9 So when they got out on the land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." 11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land, full of great fish, one hundred fifty-three; and even though there were so many, the net wasn't torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." None of the disciples dared inquire of him, "Who are you?" knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Then Jesus came and took the bread, gave it to them, and the fish likewise. 14 This is now the third time that Jesus was revealed to his disciples, after he had risen from the dead. 15 So when they had eaten their breakfast, *Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."* 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said to him, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."



## WEB

### The Reflection

Jesus gave to Peter in abundance — fish and forgiveness — what does he give to you in abundance?

### The Prayer

Living God, who raised Jesus from the dead, you feed us with the bread of life; may we feed your sheep with the bread of your love. You quench our thirst with living waters; may we offer to others the river of your justice. You make us able to find abundance; may we share the abundance of your grace, mercy and peace with all whom we meet this day.

### The Blessing

May the God of Peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working among you that which is pleasing in God's sight.

He who raised Jesus from the dead has the power to raise us up to newness of life! Therefore, let us worship the Lord!

**The Word**

Acts 2:1-4, 14-24 (*The Holy Spirit is given: power and passion descend*)

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. 2 Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. 4 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak... 14 Then Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose; it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 Instead, this is what the prophet Joel spoke about: 17 'This is what I will do in the last days, God says: I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams. 18 Yes, even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will proclaim my message. 19 I will perform miracles in the sky above and wonders on the earth below. There will be blood, fire, and thick smoke; 20 the sun will be darkened, and the moon will turn red as blood, before the great and glorious Day of the Lord comes. 21 And then, whoever calls out to the Lord for help will be saved.' 22 "Listen to these words, fellow Israelites! Jesus of Nazareth was a man whose divine authority was clearly proven to you by all the miracles and wonders which God performed through him. You yourselves know this, for it happened here among you. 23 In accordance with his own plan God had already decided that Jesus would be handed over to you; and you killed him by letting sinful men crucify him. 24 But God raised him from death, setting him free from its power, because it was impossible that death should hold him prisoner.



GNT

**The Reflection**

Is God's plan more in the big events of history or the little events of our day to day lives? What do you think? Where was God's plan worked out in Jesus' life?

**The Prayer**

O Living Christ, with whom we are united both in death and the newness of life through our baptism, we pray that you would raise the Spirit of Pentecost into our lives that we may speak your will with clear vision and with great courage. Grow within us the kind of faith that sees your hand leading us into life in both big moments and in small, everyday and today.

**The Blessing**

May the God of Life, who brings new creation to those who trust in him, bring to us all the fullness of him who lived and who died, who died and who was raised, who was raised and who reigns forevermore.