

**“You Shall Be My Witness”**  
**“Witnesses to Christ in the Ordinary”**

We are STILL in Easter. While Lent is forty days, the Celebration of Easter is fifty days, ending with Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit. During these Easter days, our readings will mostly focus on lives that are changed because they experienced the resurrected Jesus. They, then become witnesses to the new life Christ offers. The purpose of the church and particularly the Easter season is to know new life in Jesus and to witness to the resurrection in our life and spirit. We are sent as witnesses to what God has and is and will do in the world. Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed!!! ---Pastor Cindy

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon: "Witnesses to Christ in the Ordinary"

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**Prayer for the Week**

*Loving God, the eyes of your disciples were opened when your Son blessed the bread, and broke it, and gave it to them. Strip the shutters from our spiritual sight, that we may discern his true Presence in the common gifts of life, celebrate with all who love him, and have compassion for those who as yet love him not. To the praise of his name, who in the perfect fellowship of the Holy Spirit lives and loves with you, our one loving God now for ever. Amen!*

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## Study Guide

### **Monday, May 7, 2018 Luke 24: 13-16**

The last few weeks we have heard different resurrection encounters, plus comforting words of Jesus preparing his disciples for his departure. In this encounter two of Jesus disciples and a stranger comes along side. They were speaking to each other of all the events they had experienced. Jesus was right there with them, but they didn't know it, they didn't see him. It says they were prevented from seeing him. *What prevents us from seeing Jesus along our journey in life? Who joins us in the journey and what do we see when that person walks along side of us? How do we witness to this powerful reminder that Jesus walks with us?*

### **Tuesday, May 8, 2018 Luke 24: 17-24**

The stranger (Jesus) asked the disciples what they were talking about. They must have seemed overwhelmed. When Jesus specifically asks them about the events that occurred, there is a telling phrase, and *"we had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel."* Then they share that the women had told them Jesus was alive, but no one seemed to believe them. Still, these disciples, did not recognize Jesus. *Do you, like these disciples, wonder about Easter and the events of Easter? What are some of your doubts and fears and sadness? Do you, like these disciples, question those witnesses who have been changed by the resurrected Christ?*

### **Wednesday, May 9, 2018 Luke 24: 25-29**

Jesus speaks harshly in these verses to the two disciples. He reminds them of the words they had already heard; that the Christ was to suffer and then enter into glory of God. Still, they didn't recognize him and when the time came for them to stop, he was going to continue on. They begged him to stay. In their grief and pain, still there was something about this stranger that they wanted more time with him. *Are there times in your life, when you have missed Jesus' presence? Where are you missing God's presence in your life? Who is witnessing what God is doing in Christ right now?*

### **Thursday, May 10, 2018 Luke 24: 30-35**

As they get ready to eat together, Jesus takes the bread, the way any good Jewish man would and begins to bless it and break it in front of them. It was then, finally then, that the disciple's eyes, hearts and minds were open. They saw Jesus!!! After Jesus disappeared, they immediately got up and returned to Jerusalem to witness to the others their good news! Retracing the steps they had already taken, how they must have shared the things they missed. *What kind of news would be compelling enough for you to retrace your steps and go back to share? How often have you experienced Jesus in the breaking of bread? How do you witness Christ in communion and how do you share that with others?*

### **Friday, May 11, 2018 1 John 2: 24-29**

This letter assures the reader that God is with us. The challenge is to remain in relationship with Jesus and that we are to trust the blessing we have received. In this world it can be difficult to trust our experience of the resurrection. One reason we are encouraged to participate in Holy Communion regularly is so that we can experience again and again the presence of the living Christ. *This week, spend some time in prayer and study that you might be assured of God's grace and love for you. Through the love and grace each of one of us is called to be a witness to the risen Christ.*