

## Living the Seasons at Home

### April 26 – Breaking Bread

*The Easter season lasts for seventy days, until Pentecost on May 31. So during this time, we celebrate the presence of the risen Christ by telling the stories of times when he appeared to his friends. This week's event centres around a journey and a shared meal.*

#### Readings for this Season of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19

1 Peter 1:17–23

Luke 24:13–35 (The focus reading)

**Read Luke 24:13–35** in a story Bible or in this Contemporary English Version

That same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to the village of Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. As they were talking and thinking about what had happened, Jesus came near and started walking along beside them. But they did not know who he was.

Jesus asked them, "What were you talking about as you walked along?"

The two of them stood there looking sad and gloomy. Then the one named Cleopas asked Jesus, "Are you the only person from Jerusalem who didn't know what was happening there these last few days?"

"What do you mean?" Jesus asked.

They answered, "Those things that happened to Jesus from Nazareth. By what he did and said he showed that he was a powerful prophet, who pleased God and all the people. Then the chief priests and our leaders had him arrested and sentenced to die on a cross. We had hoped that he would be the one to set Israel free! But it has already been three days since all this happened.

Some women in our group surprised us. They had gone to the tomb early in the morning, but did not find the body of Jesus. They came back, saying that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. Some men from our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But they didn't see Jesus either.



Then Jesus asked the two disciples, “Why can’t you understand? How can you be so slow to believe all that the prophets said? Didn’t you know that the Messiah would have to suffer before he was given his glory?” Jesus then explained everything written about himself in the Scriptures, beginning with the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets

When the two of them came near the village where they were going, Jesus seemed to be going farther. They begged him, “Stay with us! It’s already late, and the sun is going down.” So Jesus went into the house to stay with them.

After Jesus sat down to eat, he took some bread. He blessed it and broke it. Then he gave it to them. At once they knew who he was, but he disappeared. They said to each other, “When he talked with us along the road and explained the Scriptures to us, didn’t it warm our hearts?” So they got right up and returned to Jerusalem.

The two disciples found the eleven apostles and the others gathered together. And they learned from the group that the Lord was really alive and had appeared to Peter. Then the disciples from Emmaus told what happened on the road and how they knew he was the Lord when he broke the bread.

### **Something to think about, talk about, or do**

Many of us wonder about what kind of “body” Jesus had after the Resurrection. But none can know exactly, other than that Jesus’ friends recognized him as the same Jesus they knew from before the crucifixion. The loaf of broken bread was an unmistakable sign for them that this was indeed Jesus in their midst. Jesus explained the events of the last few days to his friends with infinite love and patience.

### **Together this week**

■ ■ Jesus’ spirit of love comes to life between us when we share a meal with others. Bake a loaf of bread together. It might be a non-yeast variety such as banana bread or scones.

*With whom might you share this bread?*

■ ■ As you share the bread, discuss together where you see signs of love between you.

**Prayer** May Jesus’ spirit of love come to life whenever we travel and play together, break bread, or share the daily activities of life. Amen.