### **MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

God of the morning light, God of Easter miracles, open our hearts to hear once again the story of love overcoming death, of joy drowning out sorrow, of hope emerging from despair. Bring Easter to this moment. Touch us. Fill us. Amen.

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

## PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS MOMENT

## TRINITY WELCOME

## THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Either sin is with you, lying on your shoulders, or it is lying on Christ, the Lamb of God. Now if it is lying on your back, you are lost; but if it is resting on Christ, you are free, and you will be saved. Now choose what you want. - Martin Luther

God has smiled on me, He has set me free. For us to acknowledge that we have been set free from toxic dependency, from crippling obsession or guilt, that we have been graced with the ability finally to forgive someone, is just plain astonishing. — **Anne Lamott** 

## CALL TO WORSHIP (stand)

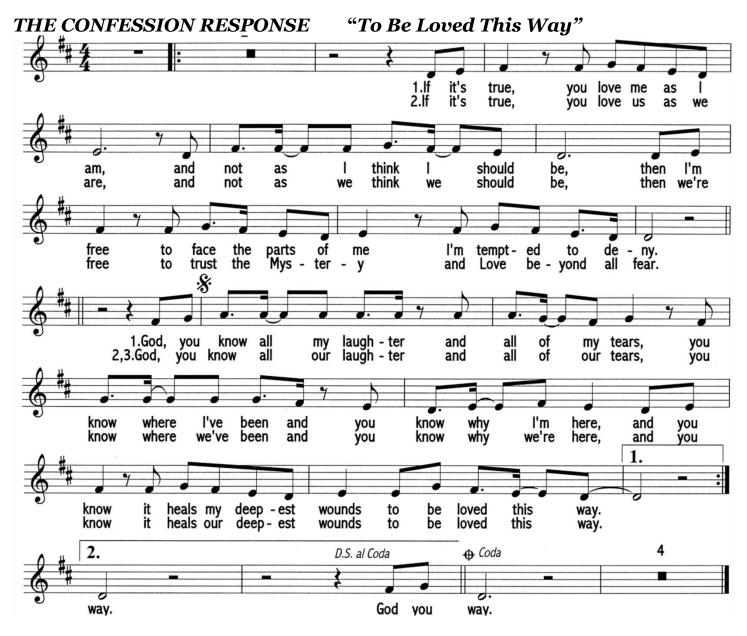
One: At the break of dawn, a bird sings. **All: The long night of darkness is over.** One: The stone is rolled away, **All: The tomb is empty.** One: The sun begins to shine. **All: The Son has risen!** One: It's a morning of glory, **All: Of love overcoming death,** One: Of women spreading Good News, **All: Of men turning from despair to hope.** One: It's a morning of joy, **All: For Easter has come again.** One: Hope is reborn, **All: Love is stronger than death,** One: And we lift our voices in song.



#### THE CONFESSION

Interrupt us, O God, disturb our set patterns and rigid responses. Shake us loose from thinking we know the only way. Free us from opinions that are held in tight grips, from holier-than-thou attitudes.

Teach us the art of looking at the world new and fresh, ready to be surprised by joy, astonished by grace, overcome with gratitude; keep us reasonably humble so we may see the new thing that you are doing through other people around us. Open us to your word, your touch, your Spirit. Help us see you at work, even in the interruptions of life. In the name of Jesus. Amen.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (sit)

## THE LESSON Acts 2:36-41

This is the end of Peter's sermon after the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The crowds response, and question of what should they do, results in Peter's answer to repent, be baptized, and experience the Holy Spirit's presence, and about 3,000 did such.

*Peter Continued:* Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

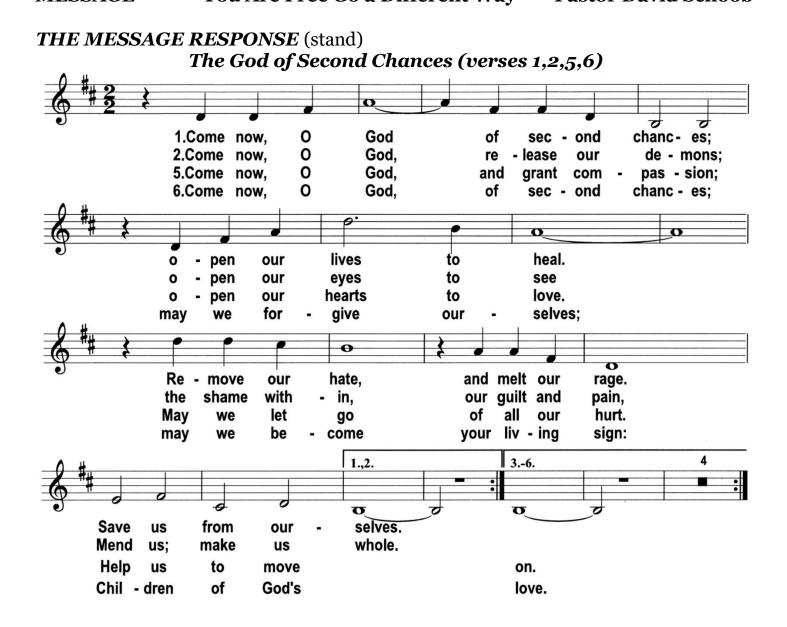
Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

# THE GOSPEL Luke 24: 13-35

This is one of Luke's records of Jesus' resurrection appearances. Here He joins two disciples walking to Emmaus, a small village near Jerusalem, on the afternoon of His resurrection. During His conversation with them, He is not recognized until they invite Him to stay with them that evening and He breaks bread with them. They then return to Jerusalem and tell the eleven disciples that Jesus indeed was alive.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. *MESSAGE* "You Are Free Go a Different Way" Pastor David Schoob



#### THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

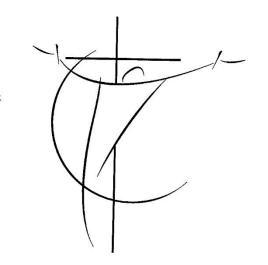
#### THE SENDING OUT

Leader: Great God of love and glory, it has been a strengthening and affirming experience to reconsider who you are, and to discover again that our experience of you in our lives is limited only by our faith and vision. Open our eyes to see you. And having seen you, may we never lose sight of you - now, today, this week or ever.





**People:** Thanks be to God.



Canticle of the Turning. Text: Rory Cooney, based on the Magnificat. Music: Irish Traditional. Text ©1990 Gia Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

To Be Loved This Way. Words and Music by Bryan Sirchio. © Crosswind Music. Used by Permission. All Rights Reserved.

The God of Second Chances. Lyrics and music by David Haas. Lyrics and music © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

Boundless Love. Words and Music by Hans Peterson. © 2001 Dakota Road Music. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

You Rolled Away the Stone. Lyrics and music Larry Olson. © 1991 Dakota Road Music. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.

Here's Hope. Words and Music: Hans Peterson, Carlos Aleman, Victor Medellin, Nick Fuller, Jared Jones, Manuel Pargas, Chris Kempenich. © 2003 Dakota Road Music. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-7

Light Dawns on a Weary World. Music: William P. Rowan, © 2000, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Lyrics: Mary Louise Bringle, © 2002, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-714192. All rights reserved.