

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
TOUCH AND SEE

CALL TO WORSHIP: WITNESSES

Jesus said, "You are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24.48)

We are witnesses,
to the love God has poured into us.
We are witnesses of God's love,
sharing it with each person we meet.
We are witnesses to everyone we encounter,
little children like us,
sisters and brothers in God's family.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When we are confused

Many: Lord, give us peace.

One: When we are afraid

Many: Lord, give us peace.

One: When we are lost in grief

Many: Lord, give us peace.

All: O God, meet us in this room

And grant us peace!

INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

We ask, O Lord, that you come be among us this day. We are scattered, yet we are one in the bond of the Spirit. Make the spaces in which we worship holy by your presence. By your presence, make our minds which have been dulled by our cares and concerns attentive and alert. By your presence, heal our souls which have been wounded by our sins and foolishness. By your presence, pour out your love upon us so that we might better understand what it is to love you and our neighbors and indeed to love ourselves. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: All Glory Laud and Honor

Refrain

All glory, laud and honor,
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

Thou art the King of Israel,

Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's Name comest,
The King and Blessed One.

Refrain

The company of angels
Are praising Thee on High,
And mortal men and all things
Created make reply.

Refrain

To Thee, before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open our eyes, gracious Lord, as we turn to your word. We long to know you, to understand life, and to be changed. Examine us, Lord, by the floodlight of your truth.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things.

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN: IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come
Let this blessed assurance control
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

Refrain

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part but in whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord Jesus Christ, the light of your love shines on, illuminating the places where you are present. As the bewildered disciples pondered the stories of your appearance, you penetrated the darkness of their fear and doubt with your word of peace. You showed them the appalling marks of evil pierced on your hands and feet. You opened their minds to understand why you had to die to defeat such evil and death. Increase our understanding, we pray, and open our minds and hearts to receive you . . .

Lord, hear our prayer . . .

Bring to us O God, the sense of your living presence as we go into this new week. Renew in us the faith you want us to have, the faith that is not afraid to reach out in your name and to share the treasure you have given us, that treasure which is greater than silver and gold . . .

Lord – you know our hearts, you know our needs, and you know the hearts of those around us and their needs. We lift ourselves and them before you at this time . . .

Lord, hear our prayer . . .

Lord, we specially hold before you today . . .
(intercessions are shared)

Lord hear our prayer . . .

Finally, O Lord, we ask that you would bless us at [local congregation] with vision for the future and reverence for the past. Guide us each day as we minister to one another and to world for which you gave yourself. Help us each day to bear witness to your name and to do that which you would have us do.

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us how to pray saying

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
and the Power and the glory forever
Amen.

OFFERING

As God has blessed our lives with abundant love and gifts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to this place, seeking to help others, to offer comfort and hope. Let us receive our morning offering.

Two Ways to Give:

Online giving at <https://www.solomonsumchurch.org/online-giving/>
Mail offering to PO Box 403 Solomons MD 20688

Prayer of Dedication

Lord of all mercy and compassion, bless these gifts lovingly offered and all the people here. Help us to use these gifts for ministries of hope through our church and into our community, nation and world. AMEN.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Lord, we are living in a world that behaves as though you never lived. Our eyes behold atrocities and insults that we never thought possible and that our grandparents thought they would never see again. We live in a world that is longing for proof of the Resurrection, proof of the Living Lord.

Lord, show us how to prove your living through our lives. Put our hands to doing what you would have done were you still on this earth. Place our feet on a path that leads others to salvation. Pull us out of our caves of isolation so that we might be seen as ordinary, living, breathing, caring people of the Resurrection.

When the people of the land cry out for proof that you are alive, or even that you ever existed, may we be able to offer our hands and feet and our lives as living proof. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own life. Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The tomb is empty. The stone is rolled away. There is no darkness now, only light. God continues to renew us and restore us. We are forgiven, loved and restored, receiving the gift and promise of new life and resurrection now. Go and share the wondrous news of God's love in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

LOVE FEAST

COMMISSION AND BLESSING FOR EASTER

Go now as God's chosen witnesses
to testify that Christ has been raised
and that we are raised with him.
Do not look for him among the dead,
but be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

And may God raise you from all that would entomb you;
May Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you;
And may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
. . . **In the name of Christ. Amen.**