

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2026

Luke 24:13-35

Breaking Bread

Dear readers, I have some Eastertide questions for you. Consider this your Risen Lord check in.

First, where have you recently seen the Risen Lord on your path? Second, what have been the conversations that left you feeling as if you were in the presence of the divine? Third, when did your heart burn with the truth of the Gospel fully awakening your senses?

Finally, when was the last time you ripped into a warm, soft loaf of bread and, before slathering a piece with butter, paused and imagined the Lord with you in that breaking of the bread?

I have always been enamored with the resurrection encounter of the travelers on the road to Emmaus who didn't realize Jesus was walking with them until he later joined them for a meal. Luke's Gospel tells us that after Jesus blessed and broke the loaf, the travelers' eyes were opened, and they recognized him for who he was: The Risen Lord.

And so, every opportunity I have I will take a loaf of bread and share not only the yeasty goodness with friends, but I will ask them to join me in realizing that in this ordinary act we are experiencing something extraordinary. We are being given an opportunity for fellowship with not just one another but with Jesus our Lord.

Perhaps this ritual of mine was born out of the slow food movement that originated in Italy in the 1980s. It was a call to take time to thoughtfully and lovingly prepare a meal rather than nuking something quick to eat. Slow down to savor the food before you, because it is only when we are fully present that we can see all that we should be grateful for.

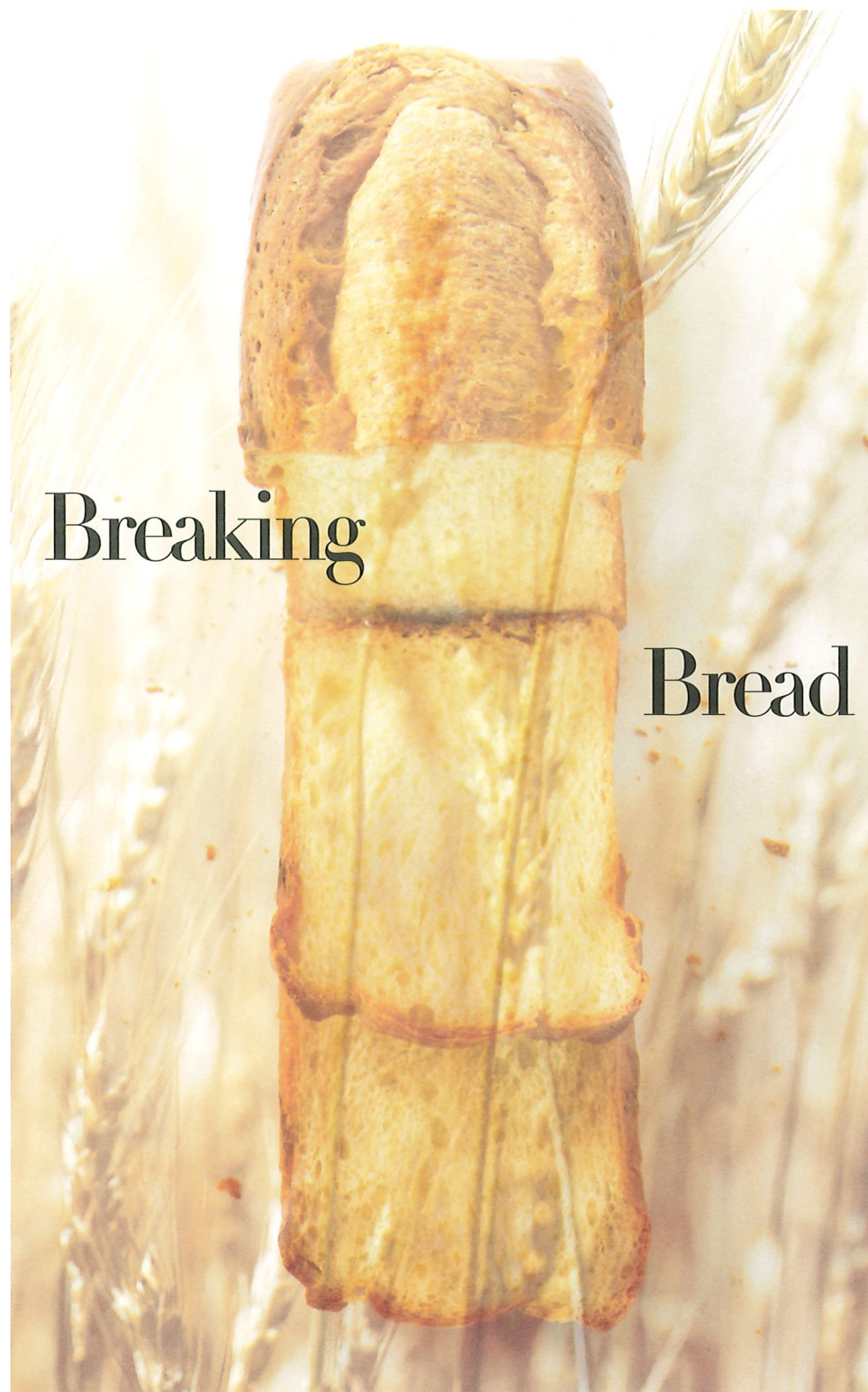
Yes, breaking bread is an everyday sacred occurrence in my home where I slow down to be fully present to my Risen Lord. Coincidentally, during the slow food movement of the 1980's, Michael Philip Ward wrote a song called, "In the Breaking of the Bread."

Based on the Emmaus encounter, the lyrics beautifully go beyond the bread breaking, reminding us that opportunities to see the Risen Lord are all around: *In the walking on the road, we saw Him. In the telling of our hopes, we saw Him. In the burning of our hearts, we saw Him. In the breaking of the bread, we saw Him. Suddenly our eyes were opened, and we knew He was alive.*

May this day your eyes suddenly open to the truth that Jesus is with you in every step you take and in every prayerful moment you make.

Sustaining and bounteous God, we thank You for the Bread of Life, our Risen Lord, who walks alongside us on our Emmaus Roads, always listening to our questions, our fears and our doubts. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



Bismarck-Mandan Area
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

April 19, 2026 at 10 AM Worship

Easter Season: Lay Leadership Celebration

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Guest Preacher: Gayla Sherman

Liturgist: Darcy Avery & Faith Schwartz | Video: Kirby Kruger

Music: Jeanne Kolberg & Caellainne Black

*Rise in body or in spirit.



WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

*NO MATTER

Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what

No matter where you are on the journey of life;

You're welcome, welcome in this place.

Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

All: You break in, O God.

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN I Greet You, Sure Redeemer NCH 251 vs. 1-3, 4

SCRIPTURE Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, look into our hearts. The words of the prophets and apostles weigh heavily on our hearts, as we too have crucified Jesus. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. With humility, we ask for forgiveness and seek your loving grace. For the sake of our living Savior Jesus Christ, grant us your unending compassion. Direct us in walking in your ways so that we may delight in your will, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*GLORIA

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children are invited to remain in worship or attend Sunday School after the Offering.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, our heavenly host;

Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2: 1-4, 14a, 36-42

CHOIR ANTHEM

Think of Me and Remember

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24: 13-35

SERMON

Gayla Sherman

HYMN

Called to Prayer

Sing! 61

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

NCH 386

*CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from [ONE LICENSE](https://www.onelicense.com/), License #732302-A.



Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

Thank You to Today's Anonymous Sponsor

Most of May is available. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.



Special Thank you to Caellainne Black - Harpist

Caellainne Black is a student of Gayla Sherman at the University of Mary. She is majoring in music education and we are blessed to have her play harp for us today!

Lay Leadership Celebration

We're celebrating Lay Leadership at Bismarck UCC from April 13 – May 17 while Pastor Gretchen is on 1/3 of her sabbatical. This the second year of our Lay Leadership Celebration and last year was an incredibly enriching, faith-filled experience with lay-led worship. For emergency pastoral care needs from Apr. 13-30, please contact Darcy Avery at 701-527-6408.

Stuffed Animal Drive - April 1-30

The Minxu Project is looking for new or gently used stuffed animals for children at our local hospitals, foster care agencies, domestic violence shelters, and first responders. We have a box in the narthex for you to place your stuffed animals in.

Make a Difference - May 2, 1-3pm

Join us for the Palm Sunday Path community event to learn more about community agencies and organizations doing the work of feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and welcoming the stranger. There will also be opportunities to learn more about writing letters to the editor and visiting with our elected officials. Held at McCabe United Methodist Church (1030 N6th St) Learn more by visiting www.wndpalmsundaypath.com.

Meet NPC Bridge CM John Vertigan - May 16

Meet our NPC bridge Conference Minister, John Vertigan, on May 16 from 1-4pm. This event will be held at Bismarck UCC in the fellowship hall.

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: April 19 - 26

- Sunday:** 11 AM Fellowship
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
- Monday:** 7 PM League of Women Readers
- Tuesday:** 1 PM Quilting/Knitting
3:45 PM Liturgical Arts
5:30 PM Trustees (in-person & [online](#))
- Wednesday:** 6 PM Youth Group & Confirmation
7 PM Choir Practice
- Thursday:** 6 PM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
- Friday:** 9 AM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
- Sunday:** 10 AM Sunday Worship (Preacher: Fr. Joe Hubbard)
10:20 AM Sunday School
11 AM Fellowship
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship

For pastoral care from Apr. 13-30, please contact Darcy Avery 701-527-6408.

Placerville UCC Camp - June 4-7

Family Getaway Camp

Placerville UCC camp is located near Rapid City in the Black Hills National Forest. All ages and family sizes are welcome.

Register at www.placervillecamp.net/camps

The early bird discount ends on May 1.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Gayle Klopp, Ivan Sadlier (Autum's uncle), Sharon Vanorny (Hannah's mother), Lacy Peters (Dawn Archer's cousin), Jody Miller, Kayla Bruning, Bella Bruning, Gellsia (Oliver Gagner's daughter), Sandy Kirby (Autum's Sister), Matthew Nitschke, Nolan (Amanda Wilson's grandson), Sheyla Munoz (Autum's sister-in-law), Tasha Hausauer (John Sauter's cousin), Hayes & Cooper (Brandon & Tasha Domagala's sons), Amanda Wilson, Frank Picard, Carla Christenson (Monica Klein's mother), Pam Crawford, Fredrick Krause (Kerri Kraft's grandfather), Colby (Janice & Gary Sather's son), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Doretta Reule, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, Refugees

*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

I Greet You, Sure Redeemer

John 11:25-27

Anon., from Strasbourg Psalter, 1545
Transl. Elizabeth L. Smith, 1868; alt.

1 I greet you, sure Re - deem - er, with my heart,
2 You are the source of mer - cy and of grace,
3 You are the life, by which a - lone we live,
4 You have the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,
5 Our hope is all in you and you a - lone;

glad for the sav - ing love that you im - part,
reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in ev - ery place;
and all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive.
no harsh - ness have you and no bit - ter - ness;
we trust the prom - ise that your word makes known.

Who pain did un - der - go for my poor sake;
So rule in us and our whole be - ing sway.
Sus - tain us by your faith and by your power,
Grant us the grace that flows in you so free
O dear Re - deem - er, make us calm and sure,

I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.
Shine on us with the light of your pure day.
and give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
that we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.
that in your strength we ev - er - more en - dure.

61

Call to Prayer

♩=100

D G/D A/D G/D

D D/F# G D

1. Float - ing and flam - ing and fill - ing new life.
 2. Search - ing and sav - ing and sooth - ing in - deed.
 3. Call - ing and car - ing and chang - ing each heart.

F#m Bm E A

Hov - ring and heal - ing and help - ing with sighs.
 Teach - ing and turn - ing and tak - ing the lead;
 Lov - ing and lift - ing us to a new start;

Em A Bm/A A7 D/F# Em

Spir - it at work since the dawn - ing of time;
 Fa - ther - ing, Moth - er - ing, birth - ing new ways;
 Je - sus our Sav - ior, our teach - er, our Lord;

A Bm C#dim Bm G Em/G A D

meet us right here, touch us right now.
 meet us right here, touch us right now.
 meet us right here, touch us right now.

A Bm C#dim Bm G Em A D

Meet us right here, touch us right now.
 Meet us right here, touch us right now.
 Meet us right here, touch us right now.

The Church's One Foundation

*Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11**Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.*

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three-in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,

with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

Like the writings of Ambrose many centuries earlier, this hymn was born out of a doctrinal dispute. The young priest Samuel J. Stone composed twelve hymns on the articles of the Apostles' Creed in support of those reacting against nontraditional views.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
 Samuel S. Wesley, 1864