

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (a)

## Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)  
 Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.  
 Remind everyone that there will be refreshments ????  
 Announce the theme of the liturgy ( see next )*

## Theme – No Disciple goes it Alone

*leader: Being Christian is to believe in the resurrection.  
 That's the foundation of the Easter message of the Christian community.  
 In today's gospel, Jesus joins two disciples walking to Emmaus.  
 They were saddened and fearful after the recent events in Jerusalem.  
 Jesus of Nazareth, the prophet of God, had been condemned to death by  
 the leaders of his people.  
 The two disciples know from women in their group  
 that Jesus' tomb had been found empty.  
 But they haven't the mature faith to be able to see in that absence,  
 the presence of the Risen Jesus!  
 Their sadness and fear are the opposite  
 of what the resurrection of Jesus should produce in believers!  
 However, believing in the resurrection and understanding its significance  
 is a process that demands time. We need to know  
 how to 'read' the Scriptures and to 'read' the Eucharistic action.  
 ( Announce the opening hymn: . . . . . )*

## Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu:  
 Grace, mercy and peace from GOD the Father and Christ Jesus our LORD,  
 be with us all:  
 all: **And with your spirit.***

## Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance* either

*leader: Gathered together in Christ, let us ask forgiveness with  
 confidence, for GOD is gentle and compassionate.  
 all: **I confess: . . .***

*or*

*leader: Friends in Christ, in today's gospel we hear the story of two disciples on  
 their way to Emmaus. Their hopes had been shattered by the events of  
 the first Holy Week. They try to lose themselves in the suburbs of  
 Jerusalem:*

- *Jesus fulfills promise of being the true David: - (pause) - **LORD, have mercy.***
- *Jesus realises the promise that endures through GOD's faithfulness,  
 long after the death of David: - ( pause) - **CHRIST, have mercy.***

- *The first apostles were witnesses to the power of GOD for life in the spirit of Jesus: - ( pause) - **LORD, have mercy.***

*leader: May almighty GOD, cleanse us of our sins and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to sit at the table of the kingdom.*

*all: **Amen***

**GLORIA** *invitation*

*either*

*leader: With all the voices of heaven, let us sing praise, honour and glory to GOD.  
or*

*leader: With peoples everywhere, let us glorify our GOD in joyful song.*

### **Opening Prayer**

*leader: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... / let us pray, ... ) O GOD of Mystery,  
out of death You delivered Christ Jesus,  
and he walked in hidden glory with his disciples.  
Stir up our faith, that our hearts may burn within us  
at the sound of his WORD and our eyes be opened to recognise him  
in the breaking of the bread. Grant this through Jesus Christ,  
the firstborn from the dead, who lives and reigns with You  
now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
GOD for ever and ever:      *all: **Amen.****

**Introduction to the first reading:** *( Acts 2 : 14, 22 – 28 )*

*leader: The first reading is a report of Peter's Pentecost sermon and describes the impact the sermon had on its hearers. It provides the texts for the first readings from Acts of the Apostles for the three Sundays following Easter. The focus is on the resurrection of Jesus.*

**Response: Psalm 16 : 11**

*all: **O GOD, You show us the path of life!***

**Introduction to the second reading:** *( 1 Peter 1 : 17 – 21 )*

*leader: The author encourages the Christian communities in Asia Minor, reminding them that their alienation has been transformed by what Jesus has done!*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*all: **Alleluia! Alleluia!***

**LORD Jesus, make your WORD plain to us,  
make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!**

**Introduction to the gospel reading:** *( Luke 24 : 13 – 35 )*

*leader: The gospel is Luke's account of the meeting between two disciples and the risen Jesus and reveals the movement between worship and life in the Christian community. Public worship and transformed lives are not separated from each other. They are integral pieces of our response as disciples to Jesus' resurrection!*

**Homily Notes** (*presider*)

- *To some of us it must seem as though economic powers are the central fact of our recent history. And no relief seems in sight! Or the fundamentalist extremes of religious piety are so rigorous and firmly entrenched that the possibility of acceptance, and therefore of wholeness, is remote.*
- *But as Jesus insisted in his own time, neither Roman imperial power nor the legalistic extremes of Hebrew religious piety, were a correct reading of the situation. Jesus saw something else. He saw the present time is the time for the reigning of GOD! His alternative community therefore uses the texts of the liturgy to confront new-comers (the newly baptised) with a transformed faith and a transformed life-in-community!*
- *The Easter texts proclaim that the life, identity and the calling of the community of readers/worshippers is founded on a quite concrete miracle that can only be attested sacramentally. For those desiring a deepening commitment, the world is not what it appears to be.*
- *Powers that seem to be in charge; ideologies that seem compelling; requirements that seem non-negotiable – all are subverted and destabilized by a profound transformation that is at the same time inclusive and enduring.*
- *The Eucharistic action, like the proclamation of the texts of the Liturgy of the Word, is not an end in itself. The end of the sacramental reality is the generation of a transformed world!*
- *Jesus spent three years apprenticing His disciples in the performance skills of living GOD's Torah. The first Holy Week shattered the disciples' world and they discussed, on the road to Emmaus, the need for a new understanding.*
- *The rabbi's comments turn their minds to the Scriptures with new questions which lead to a new level of action. The disciples invite "the stranger" to a meal. At the "breaking of bread" there is a recognition of Jesus' presence but it is fleeting. They widen the scope of their action by returning to "tell Jerusalem" of their experience.*
- *Something parallel occurs in the working life of Jesus' modern disciple. Years of conditioning by society apprentices us to settled instinct and performance skills needed for survival in the commercial and industrial world.*
- *The promise of security, meaning and dignity, unfulfilled by the traditional work ethic, leave us shattered. There is a need for new*

*understandings. Parts of the scriptures that have been neglected, provide such a new understanding of the present time. We celebrate our communal working lives and widen the scope of our action by returning to our workplace with a new awareness of Jesus' presence and action in our world!*

### **Creed / Statement of Faith**

**Intercessions – 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of the Easter Season** [ Sun 19<sup>th</sup> – Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026 ]*invitation to pray:*

leader: *Friends, Jesus went in search for his shattered disciples as they tried to cope with the collapse of their world. Let us pray with confidence, for our world, to GOD who still searches us out:*

- 1: *For all whose world has been shattered by violence and war. May the presence of the Risen Jesus through the caring hands of his modern disciples, touch them with his shadow. Help us to show Your peaceful presence to all those who are ill, or tormented, or disillusioned:*  
 - (pause) - *GOD of Wholeness, hear us: all: **GOD of Wholeness, hear us.***
- 2: *For the church in Auckland. May the presence of the Risen Jesus through the leadership of his modern disciples, breathe out a spirit of understanding and peace. Help us to show Your peaceful presence to all those whom sin and brokenness have alienated: - (pause) - GOD of Reconciliation, hear us:*  
 all: **GOD of Reconciliation, hear us.**
- 3: *For the newly baptised and the newly recommitted. May the presence of Jesus through the hospitality of his modern disciples, make them feel welcome and supported. Help us to share Your peaceful presence with them: - (pause) - GOD of Hospitality, hear us: all: **GOD of hospitality, hear us.***
- 4: *Let us pray, in the silence of our hearts for our own personal intentions: - (pause) - GOD of Goodness, hear us: all: **GOD of Goodness, hear us.***
- 5: *For the sick: we pray for:*  
 (Mangawhai) **Petronella Brom, Veronica Grigg, Chris Ohlson, Rosilene Finnegan, Nanette Matheson, Michael O'neil, Noreene Anderson, Michael Power, . . .**  
 (Maungaturoto) **Bill Lewis, Adolph Layec, Matthew Gould, Christine McHugh, . . .**  
 (Wellsford) **Margaret Pride, Dallas Colville, Alec Colville, Loris Pricor, Gerry Kok, Jill Grace, Lagi Sands, Teresa Graham (Kath Bezzant's sister) . . .**  
*Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering:*  
 - (pause) - *GOD of Well-being, hear us: all: **GOD of Well-being, hear us.***
- 6: *For those who have died: **Maria Ruiterman, . . .** And those whose death anniversaries occur about now: **Edward Choromanski, Vincent Lipanovich, Warwick Taylor, Margaret Collins, Joseph Lambert, Ronald Whynn, Maria Kok, . . .** Number them among Your saints: - (pause) - *GOD of New Life, hear us: all: **GOD of New Life, hear us.****

*Concluding Prayer:*

leader: *Holy GOD, Light in our darkness; May You continue to bring us Your truth, through the Word and Eucharist; and may the joy of the Risen Jesus penetrate our darkness, so that like disciples at Emmaus we can say: "Didn't our hearts burn within us," in his presence: all: **Amen***

---

*( If no priest, the leader: introduces Lord's Prayer. )*

---

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... / Let us pray, ... ) O GOD,  
receive the gifts of Your joyous Church.  
You have given us cause for great happiness on Earth;  
grant us the consummation of that joy in heaven.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ:      all: **Amen***

### **Preface** ( *from the preface for Easter II* )

*presider: GOD be with you.*

*all: **And also with you.***

*presider: Lift up your hearts.*

*all: **We lift them up to the Lord.***

*presider: Let us give thanks to our GOD.*

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*presider: It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
that we should always sing Your glory, LORD;  
but we praise You with greater joy than ever  
in this Easter season  
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.  
Through him the children of light rise to eternal life  
and the gates of heaven are unlocked  
to receive his faithful people.  
For his death is our ransom from death  
and in his resurrection all are raised to new life.  
Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,  
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of Your glory:  
all: **Holy holy holy!***

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER – III**

#### **Memorial Acclamation**

*( the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN' )*

---

### **Introduction to the LORD's Prayer**

*either*

*presider: Let us pray for the coming of GOD's realm as Jesus taught us.*

*or*

*presider: The Father has forgiven us, let us forgive our neighbour from the heart  
as we say:*

*all: **Our Father, ...***

*presider: Deliver us, LORD, we pray, from every evil;  
graciously grant peace in our days,*

*that by the help of Your mercy,  
we may be always freed from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.***

**Sign of Peace**

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:  
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.  
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church  
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,  
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

*presider: The peace of the LORD be with you:*

*all: **And with your spirit.***

*presider: Let us offer each other a sign of peace:*

**Lamb of God**

*all: **Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us (x2)  
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.***

*presider: Jesus Christ, Son of the living GOD,  
who by the will of the Father  
and the work of the Holy Spirit,  
through your death gave life to the world;  
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood  
from all our sins and from every evil:  
keep us always faithful to your commandments  
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

*presider: This is the bread come down from heaven;  
whoever eats this bread will never die.  
This is the cup of eternal life;  
whoever drinks of it will live forever:*

*all: **LORD, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof,  
but only say the WORD and my soul shall be healed.***

**Holy Communion**

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:  
( Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti: )*

**Prayer after Communion**

*leader: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... / Let us pray, ... ) Protect with loving-kindness, O GOD, the people You have renewed through the paschal mystery of Christ, and grant them this reward: the resurrection of the body to glory everlasting. We ask this through Jesus Christ:*

*all: **Amen.***

*( an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. ... )*

**Dismissal**

*leader: We are sent; in the name of the GOD,  
Refuge of resident aliens;  
we are sent in the name of Jesus,  
Guide to the full meaning of Scripture;  
we are sent in the name of the Spirit,  
Helper to understand our inner lives;  
to "tell Jerusalem" and any other place to which we return  
of the victory of GOD, in Jesus Christ,  
over all the powers of death, until we gather again:*

*all: **Amen***

**The Blessing**

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,  
e te Matua, e te Tamaiti ✠ e te Wairua Tapu:*

*all: **Amene***

*or*

*presider: The Blessing of GOD, Father ✠ Son and Holy Spirit be with us all:*

*all: **Amen.***

*leader: The Mass has ended, go in peace to love and serve our GOD:*

*all: **Thanks be to GOD.***