

# Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in April, 2021

## Introduction

**Leader** Even during the Easter Season we face the fact that fear paralyzes. Jesus tells us not to be afraid at least ten times in the Gospels. Good News! Trust and peace replace fear.  
Alleluia!

## Opening Prayer

**All** God of peace, during our Easter season, we come to you with our fears. Replace them with trust in you and the peace we find only in you. Help us to know you better. We pray with confidence through our Risen Lord and in your Spirit. Amen.

## Word of God Luke 24:35-43

**Reader** A reading from the Gospel of Luke *(The reading is on the reverse side.  
Pause for silent reflection.)*

**Optional** Discuss these questions in two's or three's.

1. In the Gospel, how does Jesus help the apostles deal with their fears?
2. How do you get to know Jesus better?

**Response** (Taken from Luke 24:35-48)

**Side 1** "Peace be with you."

**Side 2** Peace can enter our hearts when we accept this gift and lay aside fears.

**Side 1** "Why are you troubled?"

**Side 2** When we face fears, we can recall Jesus' question and trust in him.

**Side 1** "'Have you anything to eat?'"....He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

**Side 2** Jesus shows the disciples he is still human and eats their food. He explains what they need to understand. Lord, increase our faith to live that faith in our love for others.

**Petitions** Individuals add intentions to remember here.

**Closing Prayer** Psalm 4:4, 7b, 8a, 9

**All** Know that the Lord does wonders for his faithful ones;  
the Lord will hear me when I call upon him.  
O Lord, let the light of your countenance shine upon us!  
You put gladness into my heart.  
As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep,  
For you alone, O Lord, bring security to my dwelling.



## **A reading from the Gospel of Luke**

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way,  
and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this,  
he stood in their midst and said to them,  
“Peace be with you.”

But they were startled and terrified  
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.  
Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled?  
And why do questions arise in your hearts?  
Look at my hands and feet, that it is I myself.  
Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones  
as you can see I have.”  
And as he said this,  
he showed them his hands and his feet.

While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed,  
he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?”  
They gave him a piece of baked fish;  
he took it and ate it in front of them.

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  
and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.  
And he said to them,  
“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer  
and rise from the dead on the third day  
and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins,  
would be preached in his name  
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.  
You are witnesses of these things.”