

WALK DUSTY

As we journey through Lent let us remember that it is a long and dusty road. It is on this journey that we reflect on those who have gone before and those who will come after. We identify with the hurt and the pain. We live in the messiness that comes with the often dirty road that we must travel. Let us also remember that it is this dust we call life that shapes and forms us into resurrection people. Just as we walk wet in recognition of our baptism and the promise that it holds we encourage you this year to Walk Dusty. Remember that in the brokenness, we are healed. While the journey is long and tiresome, resurrection promises are greater. In our dusty walk we claim the promise of new sandals and clean garments. As we walk dusty we remember that we have come from dust and to dust we shall return.

WEEK THREE – WALK IN FAITH

Remember that in the brokenness, we are healed.

Small Group Bible Study Time:

CHECK IN:

Joy, Junk, and Jesus (where you have seen God at work this week)

SHARE:

-What do you do in times of trouble?

-When have you learned something from a time you were in trouble?

-Who are the people in your life who are there for you in good times and in bad times?

READ: Matthew 26:17-30 (NRSV-CE)

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' [18] He said, 'Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples."' [19] So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. [20] When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; [21] and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' [22] And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' [23] He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. [24] The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' [25] Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.' [26] While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' [27] Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; [28] for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. [29] I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' [30] When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

TEACHING

SHARE:

-God came to earth in human form to heal a broken people. The Lord's Supper is a symbol of God's love and forgiveness. What does it mean to you that God forgives our sins?

-When do you feel healed?

-How do you heal spiritually?

ACTIVITY: *Lectio Divina (Optional if there is time)*

Read the following verses 3 times and pause between each reading for a time of reflection. It may help to have different people read it aloud each time. The first time you read it, listen for a phrase that sticks out to you. The second time listen for a word that sticks out to you. The last time, listen for what God is asking you to do in the passage. Share your thoughts at the end if you feel comfortable doing so.

READ:

Psalms 103:1-4 (NRSV-CE)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. [2]

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits— [3] who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, [4] who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

BONUS SECTION

This section may be used if there is enough time, or can be read and reflected on individually at another time. If you choose not to cover this section in small group time, finish with the closing prayer and blessing at the bottom.

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's supper

READ:

1 Corinthians 10:14-17 (NRSV-CE)

Therefore, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols. [15] I

speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. [16]

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of

Christ? [17] Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Luke 24:28-35 (NRSV-CE)

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. [29] 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. [30] When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. [31] Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. [32] 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?' [33] That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. [34] They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' [35] Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

REFLECT:

When hearing the Word from others and sharing in the sacrament, God does something new. We are opened up and filled. We are changed by God's very Word and life-sustaining and giving food.

Despite an on-going pandemic, these truths are still central in our walk. We have all found new ways as the Body of Christ in the world (the church) to hear the Word of God and to share in the sacrament. We have sacrificed some to be sure, to help our neighbors and ourselves stay safe and healthy. However, we have not been alone as God is with us always, and as God's people we have found ways to stay connected with one another in physically distanced ways.

SHARE:

- What does it mean for you to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's supper?
- How have you experienced new ways of doing this during this pandemic time?

- In what ways has the Word and sacrament filled you in the good and hard days of life?

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING:

Remind us Good and Gracious God, that in the brokenness we are healed. May you strengthen us and surround us in your love and especially through your Word and Holy Meal. Amen!

Share this blessing with one another.

May you know the God of all creation is with you always
and surrounds you in love.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.