

Scripture Reflection

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

On this Third Sunday of Easter, we are invited to open our eyes and our hearts to recognize the Risen Lord among us and to respond with grateful hearts.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter boldly proclaims the Good News: Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified, has been raised up by God. He is the Christ, the awaited Messiah. Once afraid, Peter now speaks with courage and gratitude, because he has experienced firsthand the mercy and power of the Risen Christ.

In today's second reading, Peter reminds us in his letter that we were ransomed "with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Pt 1:18-19). Everything we have is a gift, and we are called to live with reverence, serving others with gratitude for the love that we have received.

In the Gospel, two disciples walk the road to Emmaus with heavy hearts. Yet when they welcome a stranger and listen to His words, their hearts burn within them. In the breaking of the bread, they recognize Jesus and set out immediately to share the Good News. Gratitude moves them to action.

Like those disciples, we, too, encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament, and in one another. With Grateful Hearts Serving Others, we are sent forth to share His presence.

Each year, the *Annual Catholic Appeal* allows us to live out this mission together and reach out to the suffering, the doubting, and the weary throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis. In gratitude for all God has done, we respond by serving others in His name. Our gifts become hope and healing for the most vulnerable and spread His boundless love and mercy.

Today and always, may we recognize the Risen Lord in our midst and let our grateful hearts be moved to serve. Please give to the *Appeal* <<date and place>> or visit aca.archstl.org to learn more about the impact of your generosity.

Bulletin/Pulpit Announcement

Christ's boundless mercy compels us to act with grateful hearts. The *Annual Catholic Appeal* provides us an opportunity to serve others throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis and support the mission of the Church, sharing Christ's love with those who need it most. This week, we are launching the *Appeal* in our parish.

Please consider supporting the *Annual Catholic Appeal* this year. You can pick up your pledge card after Mass or make a gift online at aca.archstl.org.