



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**  
**April 14, 2024**  
**10:00 AM**

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**Third Sunday**  
**Of Easter**





# Welcome to Worship!

**SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM**

**In-person Worship.** Masks and distance recommended, not required

**Livestream on YouTube.** Live at 10am then available on our channel

**"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast.** Available wherever you get your podcasts, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



## Ways to Give

**Text Your Gift.** Text your gift to [844-977-2346](tel:844-977-2346)

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount

**Use PayPal.** [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=seller=&to=stpeteruccskokie)

**Send a Check.** Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

**Set up Vanco.** Contact the church office to enroll in regular giving



## Open Communion

**All Christians** and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



## About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we **joyously welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



## Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

**Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor):** [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

*Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!*



**8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 10:00am**  
**The Third Sunday of Easter**

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*Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.*

**PRELUDE** Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*This morning our Call to Worship is in song; let's sing the opening and then the first verse of "The Strife is O'er," Hymn #173*

*Jubilantly. With majesty*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

1. The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done;  
 2. The powers of death have done their worst,  
 3. The three sad days have quick - ly sped;  
 4. He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell,  
 5. Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed Thee,

The vic - to - ry of life is won; The song of  
 But Christ their le - gions hath dis - persed: Let shouts of  
 He ris - es glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry  
 The bars from heaven's high por - tals fell: Let hymns of  
 From death's dread sting Thy serv - ants free, That we may

tri - umph has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise His tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 live and sing to Thee. Al - le - lu - ia! A - MEN.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

P: The mob action that sent Jesus to the cross was fed by fears and anger we are reluctant to claim. Yet we, too, reject the Holy One at times, by our neglect if not by deliberate intent. Let us acknowledge Scripture's call for us to repent and turn back to the Lord, that our sins may be wiped away. Let us first read the prayer to ourselves silently if we have not already, then we'll pray it together aloud.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**A: God, we confess that we do not have You all figured out, but we act as if we do. We do not wait with patience for Your words of wisdom and direction. We raise Your banner high but do our own will. Have mercy on us who love You but have not been able to separate our desire for power, our desire to make the rules, our desire to speak for You, from Your calling on our lives. Help us, O God, remember that we are mere sinners, seeking Your grace, for which we ask in the name of Your Son our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON *| John 2:1-2*

P: "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,

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and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

There we hear it and have it! Jesus took our sins upon himself in incomprehensible agape love, and through him they are forgiven, washed away, and no longer in the memory of our God. In the Resurrection, new life is given not only to Jesus but also to all who believe, who are covered by his blood, even the whole world. What in heaven or on earth can we say to this?

**All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

**HYMN**      “The Strife is O’er”      #173 (vv. 2-4)  
*Go to page 2 in this bulletin*

*The congregation may be seated*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**      Mark Loach  
 Epistle:      I John 3:1-7  
 The Gospel      Luke 24:36b-48

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** Selected

*The Congregation may be seated*

**PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 Hallowed be Thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread,**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil;  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory forever. Amen.**

## **OFFERTORY**

*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

### **DOXOLOGY**

Tune #551

**A: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise God, all creatures here below!  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host!  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen!**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**A: We give with joy, gracious God, for You have ben  
with us even when we were unfaithful. You have  
kept us in safety through times of grave distress. We  
can call on You in all times and places, in life and in  
death, knowing that Your strength is available to  
sustain us. We give now, that Your church may be  
empowered in the proclamation of the good news  
and the transformation of human life. In Christ's  
name we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN****“We're Children of God”**

*Sing to the tune "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!"*

**We're children of God; we're welcomed and claimed.**

**We're given new birth, renewed and renamed.**

**The world may not know yet to whom we belong,**

**But we are God's children and love is our song.**

**We're children of God who takes away sin.**

**In Christ we abide; our life is in him.**

**We offer forgiveness, seek justice and peace,**

**And reach out to others, that love may increase.**

**We're children of God and so our delight**

**Is living the life that's good in God's sight.**

**One day we'll be like him, transformed from above**

**To sing for eternity God's song of love.**

*Text: Copyright © 2013 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by personal permission.*

*The congregation may be seated*

**SERMON**

**“Why Do Doubts Arise . . .? The Now and the Not Yet”**



Will those who are able please stand up

# HYMN "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" #169

1. Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness:  
 2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst His pris - on,

God hath brought His peo - ple forth In - to joy from sad - ness.  
 And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath ris - en;

Now re - jice, Je - ru - sa - lem, And with true af - fec - tion  
 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing

Wel - come in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.  
 From His light, to whom we give Laud and praise un - dy - ing. A - MEN.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

P: Christ is risen!

**C: Alleluia!**

P: Christ goes before us.

**C: Alleluia!**

P: Go to do God's will in the world.

**C: We will!**

P: Go, with the blessing of the Holy Trinity.

**A: Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** Selected

*The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.*

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**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

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# OFFERING of LETTERS

Put your faith into action with  
Bread for the World's Offering of Letters!

As people of faith, we are called to give of our time, talent, and treasure for a greater purpose. Bread for the World invites you to use your voice to help end hunger.

Every year, Bread for the World organizes churches, community organizations, and people of faith from across the country to write letters and emails to their members of Congress who have the power to impact the policies and programs that can **end hunger**.

By taking part in **Bread for the World's 2024 Offering of Letters**, you will help support domestic and international nutrition programs that offer a hand up to families and a brighter future for children.

**Your letter matters.** Combined with others from your church, campus, or organization—and joined with the voices of thousands of advocates across the country—your letter or email is an expression of faith and hope, urging U.S. decision makers to pursue a world without hunger. God uses these letters to change hearts and minds, and again and again, Bread for the World wins help and opportunity for our neighbors who face hunger.

## Prayer of the Day

*God of love,*

*We gather this day to worship you;  
to hear your word proclaimed,*

*to pray for our neighbors,  
near and far,*

*and to offer the gift of our voices*

*-and our words*

*so that children around the world  
have enough nourishing food*

*that they will thrive.*

*Amen. 🍌*



## How to participate in Offering of Letters

**Join Bread for the World in pursuing a world without hunger.**

Please take a few minutes to write your members of Congress. Urge them to help families and children experiencing hunger and poverty—no matter where they live.

Sample letters can be found to print or send by email at [ol.bread.org](mailto:ol.bread.org).



# OFFERING of LETTERS



Sunday, April 14, 2024

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11:30am (after worship)

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Memorial Room

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Speak up to end hunger.  
Scan to learn more!

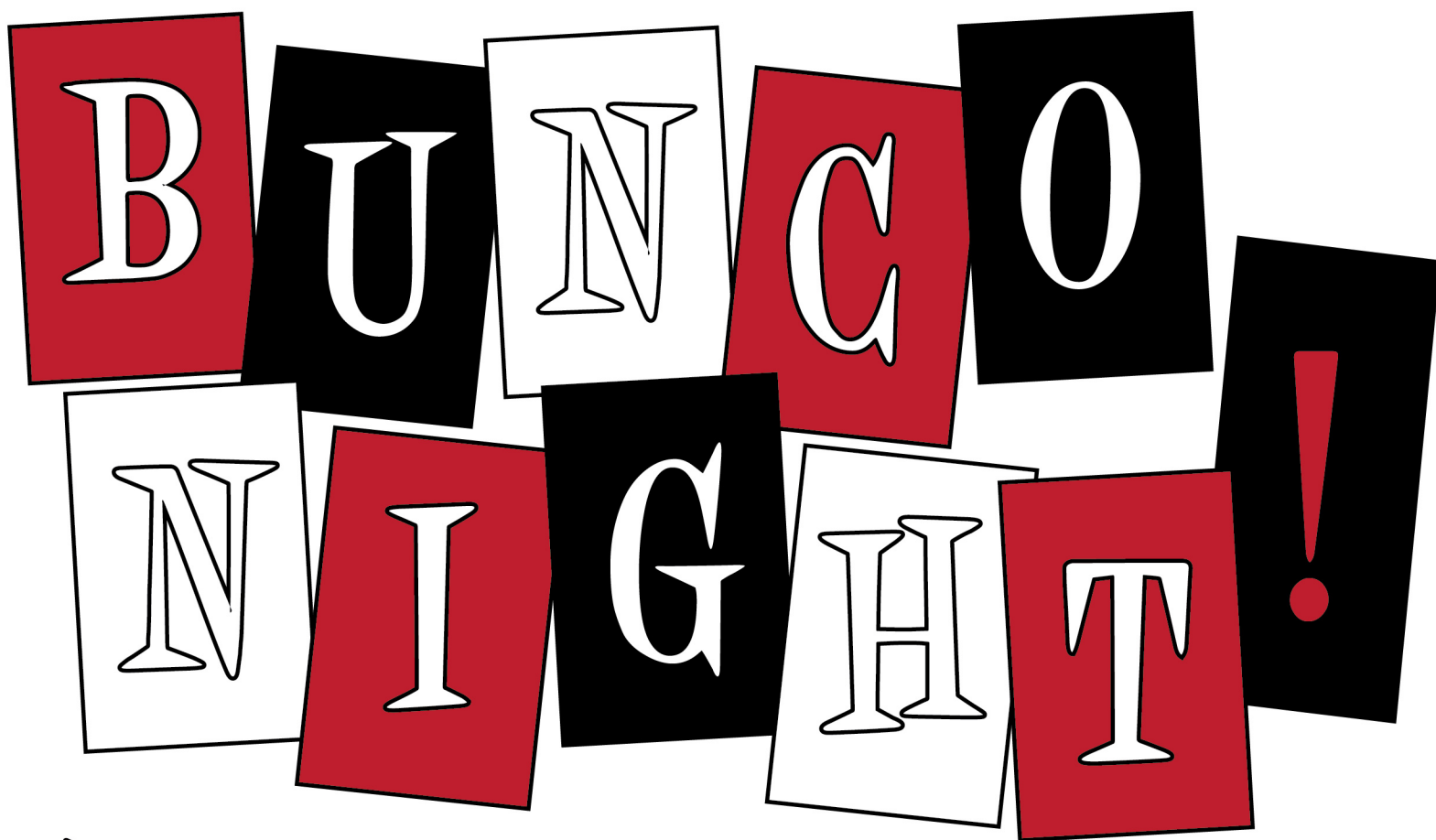


[bread.org](http://bread.org) • 800.822.7323 • [bread@bread.org](mailto:bread@bread.org)



@bread4theworld

St. Peter's United Church of Christ | 8013 Laramie Street, Skokie



\$5

donation  
gets you

- drinks
- dessert
- snack bag



Games  
Snacks



Raffle Prizes

April 27<sup>th</sup>  
7-10pm

Prizes, games, and the best raffle in town!  
Don't miss this fun family night out!

To reserve a table for your group:  
Call Office (847-673-8166) by April 26.

For more details, see "Upcoming Events" on [stpeteruccskokie.org](http://stpeteruccskokie.org) homepage

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# News in the Pews

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Welcome to worship in the name of the God of life, the risen Jesus, and the Holy Spirit who empowers our discipleship. Amen.

Thank you to everyone who helped put our worship service together today!

Welcome back to **Matthew Peterson**, once again a guest substitute for our Ben Westphal as he is away to be with his mom as she has or will undergo surgery.

**TODAY after worship we will host a special, enhanced Coffee Hour hosted by our Micah 6:8 Committee**, during which we will have the opportunity to write letters to our members of Congress asking for their support of specific budget legislation that will support programs getting food to the hungry! Please stay, learn, and participate! This project is undertaken with help from Bread for the World.

**The Church Council meets after worship next Sunday, the 21st.** If you are responsible for a report, please send it into the Council April Dropbox as soon as you can; it will be appreciated by your fellow Council members.

**The deadline for the May Announcer** is the day after that, Monday, April 22nd – a week from tomorrow!

**Skokie Neighbors for Housing Justice is holding a housing forum from 3-5pm, Saturday, April 20th** at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, 1655 Foster Street, Evanston. This information was shared with the Niles Clergy Township Forum,

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and we are in turn sharing it with you! The forum will invite learning and input from the community. Forum participants will learn about housing resources, hear real stories of housing issues, and help envision the future of affordability. Partners and event sponsors include the Evanston Community Alliance for Better Government, Interfaith Action, and Impact Behavioral Health among other organizations. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/mrfsjm8p>.

**BUNCO is April 27<sup>th</sup>!** Join us for the most fun night of the year! More details on the flyer included in this bulletin. All are welcome, open to the public!

**Let's Talk about Saying Goodbye-** We have two more special events planned to bid our Pastor and Beth a fond farewell, so save the dates. May 19<sup>th</sup> at 5PM we're bringing back the Spaghetti Dinner. Then Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> (Pastor's last day) at 5PM we'll have a formal dinner. More details on these will be given out closer to the events. We are taking donations now to offset the cost of the events, those can be directed as the "Lanford Celebration Fund."

**Misericordia days are here again, and our very own Ricky can use your donations!!** Ricky was born prematurely in January 2006 and as many of you know is developmentally about 5 years old - and is sunshine in human form. He has an intellectual disability and will not be able to live independently when his parents, members of St. Peter's, can no longer take care of him. Misericordia is a beautiful place that offers living arrangements and assistance to people like our Ricky. Please consider donating to this beautiful organization that helps people that are unable to care for themselves, *and use the link following to do it, to make sure the Riley family gets credited.*

<https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordiacandydays2024/participant/AnnaRiley>

Thank you so much for your consideration!

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# Our People

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**Hospitalized:** Jane Abramchik has returned to the McGaw Care Center, Frank Murdough Pavilion, 3200 Grant Street, Room 333. Evanston, IL 60201. Ben's mom Carla Westphal is hospitalized after having surgery. Dorene Schurman remains in hospice care in Ohio, and MaryLou Noorts is in hospice care at The Arbor in Glenview. Please pray for them and their families.

**According to the schedule,** next week's Lector will be Marcia Hilliard or Andre Gloeckner, the Nursery Attendant, Rita McMahan, and Beth L. will be our live streamer.

**Birthdays this week** belong to Marcia Hilliard, Ken Itter, and Bonnie Loach! This week also holds the **wedding anniversary** of Juanito and Analise Banoyo. Blessings on them and their festivities!

**Pictures of Pastor and Beth needed!** As we adjust to the news of Pastor's retirement, we ask all you folks to go through your old photos and share them with us. You can email the church office with the photos [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org), or bring or mail them in and we'll scan and return them to you. Thanks so much for your help!

*Our Call to Confession and Offertory Prayer this morning are reprinted by permission of United Church Press from Led by Love by Lavon Bayler, copyright 1986 by United Church Press.*

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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## Regular Reminders!

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**We are always grateful for any and all offerings** to the church. No amount is too small! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

**Let us know you were here!** Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church.

**Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts!** Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us!

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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## MISSION MOMENTS

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**April 14, 2024**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**“Christ Among Us”**

**Luke 24:36b-48**

*Luke 24: 41-43 Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.*

Dear Brother Jesus, Dear Christ now Risen -

We are always asking you for things, it seems.

Someone wants healing from illness.

Someone needs freedom from addiction.

The nations cry for peace.

The groaning planet sighs for relief.

For these we pray in our requests,

We pray also that we will recognize

You when you give us these things - healing, freedom, peace,  
relief.

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But hey there Jesus, hey there Christ now Risen,  
Here is how we will actually-factually recognize you.  
One day, You will come to us.  
We'll be sitting together,  
(probably wondering aloud where you've gotten to now)  
and there you'll be.

You'll say, "Do you have anything to eat here, siblings?"

That day, you might be in one of your  
disconcerting disguises, brother Jesus.  
You might not smell good or speak our language.  
You might not look like us or think like us.

But this is how you let us know  
That we can recognize you.  
Because you will ask us, like this,  
"Don't you have anything to eat here?"  
And all we will be able to say is yes, yes, yes.  
And then, Oh! It's you!

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**1 John 3:1 - 7**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

**Luke 24:36 - 48**

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then 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, the prophets,

and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”