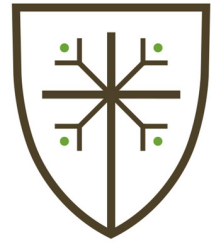


# Easter tide

April 9 - May 28

# SERMON NOTES



April 23, 2023

## SERMON INFO

### TITLE

What Faith Requires

### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

### TEXTS

Acts 2:14, 36-39

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you turn to when dealing with the loss of hope?
2. Where might the "divine passive" be operating in your life?

## SERMON IN SUMMARY

In looking at the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus this week, Tim posed the question, "what does faith require of us?"

### Honest Assessment

Faith requires an honest assessment of what you really believe. It is common in our culture to hear Jesus spoken of as a "symbol" or as "a good moral teacher." But what about his actual, physical resurrection? Can Jesus as a symbol really account for what has happened in history? For the immediate spread of Christianity worldwide and for its sustained presence and growth over the last 2,000 years? Every week we repeat the Apostle's Creed in worship, a truly honest assessment of what it is we say we believe. Which includes the death, resurrection, and ascension of the physical Jesus.

### Loss

The two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus are dealing with the greatest loss of their lives. The death of Jesus would've left his followers reeling not only from grief but from confusion. When Jesus meets them on the road they tell him "We had hoped..." Jesus was supposed to be the answer, the one to restore Israel, to free them, to lift them up. The one to make all their dreams come true. And so, how were they to process his death? How were they to handle not only the loss of their friend and teacher, but the loss of hope? Jesus' first public words recorded in the gospels are "blessed are the poor in spirit." Faith in Christ after the resurrection requires loss. But our faith is also strongest when we are crushed, "poor in spirit." We won't stop lifting up our hearts to the things of this world until they are gone, until they are lost to us. Have you lost what you thought was your life? In the midst of our greatest losses is where Jesus most evidently and most often draws closest to us.

### The Divine Passive

In the gospel passage, you'll note the following verbs: "were going" "were talking" "were kept." And these represent what is called the "divine passive." Where the subjects are being acted upon but the one doing the action isn't named. God is drawing near and is at work. The divine passive always comes into play with those things we cannot do on our own. Just like the disciples on the road, we can't see Jesus, can't believe in Jesus on our own. We can't convince our minds that God exists. We must be acted upon.

Finally, Jesus breaks open the Scriptures to these two disciples. And then he breaks bread with them, and he breaks open their hearts that they would know him. Jesus himself is broken open for us. To be a Christian and to have faith in Jesus after the resurrection you must first be acted upon, be broken open, and then you will be acted through in order to help others see.