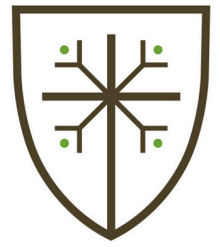


# SERMON NOTES



April 19, 2026

## SERMON INFO

### TITLE

"Opened Eyes"

### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

### TEXTS

Hosea 4:1-2, 6

1 Cor. 13:13; 2 Cor. 5:1-8

Luke 24:13-35

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you find yourself expecting a life of faith to be easy? Why is that not the case?
2. What are some ways in which sin and the spiritual forces at work in our world seek to "keep our eyes closed?"

## SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim preached on the post-resurrection story of the travelers on the road to Emmaus. He began with the question, "Why do we struggle to see Jesus alive and present in our lives and in the world?"

### The Hiddenness

In his Gospel, Luke includes a story at the beginning and the end of people unable to see Jesus. The first is Jesus' parents in the temple when he was a child. The second is the travelers on the road to Emmaus in our reading today. He does this in order to set an expectation for our life with Jesus. There is always a hiddenness. We don't get to see Jesus in this life, not in the way that Thomas did when he was able to touch his hands and his side. We have to listen and trust what others have seen. But the same is true even for the disciples. Verse 24 of the Gospel reading says that even those who ran to the tomb, "him they did not see." Even they must first believe another's message about Jesus before seeing him face to face. This is a primary and persistent theme in Scripture, especially for the Apostle Paul, who reminds the Corinthians that "we walk by faith and not by sight." Faith requires courage. It is going to be difficult in a world darkened and shadowed by sin. We can never expect life in this world to be easy. We must be prepared to do as the travelers to Emmaus are doing and wrestle with those things that trouble us. They are not simply sitting still; they are moving, seeking truth, discussing together. They show us what walking and living by faith is like even as they enter into it.

### Held Eyes

Our text says that "their eyes were kept from recognizing him"—literally, they were restrained, prevented, or held. There are forces operating on them beyond their capacity, control, or awareness. Their eyes need to be released, and ours are no different. Why are the eyes of our hearts like this? Because sin is an invasive power that twists and distorts all of God's creation. And then it makes us slow of heart to believe and trust God's Word. Just as we read of God's people in the book of Hosea, God's people are unraveling individually and culturally. The religious leaders have not taught them God's Word. If we have to trust another's word about God and don't hear it, we will die spiritually. Every person's life is determined by some word or message, whether God's Word or the word of the world. Through God's Word, we can come to know God. But simply reading or hearing the Word isn't enough.

### At Table

After Jesus meets the travelers, he proceeds to unfold everything from Moses through the Prophets about him—that it was God's plan to take on flesh, die for us, and be raised. It is God's plan to pour out his Spirit so that we might be able to see him and believe the words about him. But hearing is not enough. We are embodied creatures, so we, like the travelers, need to touch, taste, and smell in order to know. So Jesus comes to the table with us, takes, blesses, breaks, and gives us bread. He is the once-for-all sacrifice made present for us even now to feed our souls so that we might become a people who know him deeply. From beginning to the end of Scripture, God communicates with a word and a meal—from God's first word to Adam about the fruit of the tree to the wedding supper of the Lamb in Revelation. In like manner, when we come each week to the Table, Jesus meets us, makes himself known to us, and will never let us go, a promise sealed by a meal.