

**PRAYER:** God, I don't always hear you when you speak. Open my ears and my heart. Speak your truth to me. Amen

**ACTION:** Listen for God speaking throughout your day.

**Saturday, April 23, 2022** (by Lisa Trigg)  
Luke 24:36-40      <https://tinyurl.com/2dy5pnh2>

**PONDER:** It's not enough that the tomb is empty or to proclaim, "Christ is risen!" It's not enough to believe in the resurrection. At some point we have to move from the event of the resurrection to experiencing resurrected life, which begins with recognizing the risen Christ among us. This is the challenge described in today's text. Cleopas and his companion are telling the other disciples how Jesus appeared to them on the road to Emmaus when Jesus, again, shows up out of nowhere, interrupting their conversation. They see him, they hear his voice, but they don't recognize him. This can only be a ghost, a spirit without a body. The tomb is open but their minds are closed. They are unable to recognize the holiness that stands among them. They have separated spirit and matter, divinity and humanity, heaven and earth. Whenever we make that separation, we close our minds. We deny ourselves the resurrected life for which Jesus died. We lose our sense of and ability to recognize holiness in the world, in one another, and in ourselves. It is important for us to take time to watch for Jesus in our lives. Set aside time today to be awake, listening and receptive to a moment when Christ opens your mind to understand and you recognize the possibilities of new life.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, Help me open my heart, soften my attitude and accept the new life that is offered to me through your son Jesus. I worship you in awe and sacred silence. Amen.

**ACTION:** Plant some summer-blooming flower bulbs such as dahlias to give new life and beauty to the world around you.



**GOBIN CHURCH**  
A United Methodist Community for All

**DAILY PRAYER MEDITATIONS**  
**April 18-23, 2022**

**Monday, April 18, 2022** (by Marilyn Culler)  
1 Corinthians 5:6-8      <https://tinyurl.com/2p848mcp>

**PONDER:** Bread baking is not easy. Flour, water, yeast (or no yeast), temperature, humidity – everything has to come together to get a pleasing, good tasting loaf of bread. Why bother when we can go to the store and buy a loaf of bread? The right ingredients, patience and control are needed for bread baking, just as the right heart and mind are needed for a life in Christ. Even the tiniest of missteps can distract us from remembering the sacrifice of Jesus. The reward of being one in truth with Christ is eternal life.

**PRAYER:** God of new life in the resurrected Christ, keep me alive in the truth of your goodness. Amen

**ACTION:** Bake something. Savor the patience of measuring ingredients. Wait patiently as baking brings your creation to fullness. Taste the goodness of your effort. Tell no one.

**Tuesday, April 19, 2022** (by Jamie Douglas)  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24      <https://tinyurl.com/y8yduf7u>

**PONDER:** This Psalm has three often heard and repeated – or in today's language and manner of sharing news -"re-tweeted" verses. Verse 1: "o give thanks to the Lord, for He is good"; Verse 22: "The stone that the builders rejected"; and, verse 24: "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it". As we enter the first week after Easter and celebrate the Risen Christ, it might be easy to give thanks for Christ and declare that each day is a miraculous day that the Lord has made. Do we think much about the phrase, "the stone that the builders rejected"? It can be easy to think of the builders as the Jewish leadership and Jewish people,

but they are not the only builders who reject Jesus as the stone or cornerstone. I saw a description of an architectural cornerstone as, “the first stone laid for a structure, with all other stones laid in reference”. That evoked a powerful image for me. Are there ways and times where we reject Jesus? Where we fail to understand what the purpose of a cornerstone is and how important it is to look to the Cornerstone for direction?

**PRAY:** Risen Christ, we seek to align ourselves with you. You are the cornerstone, the foundation of all that God intended. May we note the direction you set for us and remain connected and strengthened as we recognize that we owe our very existence to you and Truth can be found when we look to you. Amen

**ACT:** Follow this link or any link that takes you to the definition and sample of a Cornerstone.  
<https://www.newstudioarchitecture.com/newstudio-blog/architectural-cornerstones>

Take a walk around the center of your hometown or look at your church and find the cornerstone. Consider what this world would look like if we truly saw Jesus as the cornerstone of our existence and each of us as a subsequent stone laid and aligned with the cornerstone that is Christ.

**Wednesday, April 20, 2022** (by Anita Edenfield)  
Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 <https://tinyurl.com/y8yduf7u>

**PONDER:** This psalmist’s writings may have been a metaphor for how God works on earth. He may have seen himself rejected by enemies who attacked him, yet he was given victories by God. In the same way, he may have been writing of Jesus’ rejection by the world yet made by God to be the capstone in building his kingdom of believers. Perhaps we might see a parallel with the psalmist’s writings and our journey in faith; as we might feel, or even be rejected, we must stay strong and trust completely in God’s goodness and power so we might become capstones for his work on earth.

**PRAYER:** Father, we give you thanks and praise for your love is everlasting. We pray to you for strength to stay strong and continue to build your world through our actions of kindness and love. This is the day you have made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! Amen

**ACTION:** Think about your strengths and how you might channel them to make something better. You don’t have to build the house, but if you can use a hammer and saw you can be part of a team that can. If you can’t use a hammer or saw, but you can cook you can feed the team that needs energy to build the house! Your strengths can make another effort stronger if you choose to get involved!

**Thursday, April 21, 2022** (by Teddy Shuck)  
Psalm 150 <https://tinyurl.com/4np37amf>

**PONDER:** In this final psalm, the exhortation to “praise the Lord” occurs eleven times, specifying different places, motives, and means for such praise. The imperative verb “praise!” is in the plural, addressed to an indeterminate multitude that finally comes to include all living things. By the psalmist’s intention, the Lord’s praise has merged with the very limits of the created world: a fitting conclusion for this inspired book of prayers.

**PRAY:** Lord, may I make use of everything you have given me as I praise you in every moment and for every good thing you have done in my life.

**ACT:** Here is a new way to examine my conscience: By what actions of mine do I forget or fail to offer praise to the Lord?

**Friday, April 22, 2022** (by Terry Noble)  
Isaiah 6:1-4 <https://tinyurl.com/4ny8j4k6>

**PONDER:** In this passage the prophet Isaiah shares an incredible vision of God. Written before the Babylonian exile, the temple in his vision is the Temple built by Solomon, and the Israelites saw the Temple as the place where Yahweh’s presence resided. The scripture does not tell us how Isaiah came to be in the Temple that day. Perhaps he had come for daily prayer. What he experienced is one of the great stories of God calling a prophet. Our reading today gives us the opening scene. Isaiah sees God’s presence filling the Temple while Seraphs, with their faces covered, proclaim “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” Incense rises and its smoke and fragrance create a great cloud. From Moses at the burning bush, to the “still, small voice” that Elijah heard, to this magnificent vision of Isaiah we see that God speaks in many ways. God continues to speak in both quiet and magnificent and surprising ways. Are we listening?