



The Road to Emmaus
Vita Christi (Life of Christ), Italy, Florence, ca. 1320
The Morgan Library and Museum

SUNDAY PRAYER

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 26, 2020
GRACE CHURCH, TRUMBULL

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn: Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless (Hymnal #343)

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
word of grace, in strength of which we
then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876) Copyright ©1985, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Leader Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Hymn of Praise *Pascha Nostrum*

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he dies, he dies to sin, once for all; *

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, *

by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, *

so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

The Collect of the Day

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Acts 2:14a,36-41

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified

with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

Dilexi, quoniam

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

10 How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle

1 Peter 1:17-23

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver

or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were

saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



Daffodils by the Bell in front of the Church Building.

A Reflection

The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Today, we hear another story of having our expectations turned upside down. On Easter Day, Mary came to the tomb to find it empty. Convinced that Jesus' body had been spirited away, she encountered Jesus himself. Last Sunday, we heard of Thomas, who was not so much doubting as he was afraid to believe that Jesus was alive. Then, suddenly there Jesus was. And today, we listen to the story of two people who meet a stranger on the road to Emmaus.

There is, for us, a certain irony at walking through the fifty days of the Easter feast having had our own expectations turned upside down. Faced with the collapse of our plans in the midst of unfamiliar, painful and often deadly, circumstances, who of us hasn't muttered, "But we had hoped."

In the absence of the usual trappings of the Easter season, we are invited to hear these Gospel stories with new ears, and to ask new questions. Where do we look for the Risen Jesus? And, more importantly, where do we actually discover the Risen Jesus?

The account of the Road to Emmaus is unique to Luke's gospel. On the day of the resurrection, two of Jesus' disciples, Cleopas, and another whose identity is lost to us, are walking to Emmaus, a village about seven miles WNW of Jerusalem. Luke tells us that they were rapt in conversation about *all these things that had happened*.

They notice a stranger, who joins them and asks what they've been talking about. *They stood still, looking sad*, and then related a remarkable story of dashed hopes about their leader and friend, Jesus of Nazareth. *Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe*, the stranger tells them, *then interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures*.

When they reach Emmaus, the stranger is urged to have a meal with the two disciples. And, in the course of the mealtime rituals of blessing God and breaking bread, they saw that the stranger was, in fact, Jesus. And he vanished.

Then, they realized that it had been Jesus all along, *were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?* I will confess to an inward chuckle at this famous line, imaging that who "knew" first became a competition. In any case, they race back to Jerusalem to tell the gathered followers *what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread*.

The first observation I want to make is that Jesus doesn't wait until we have it all figured out, he comes to meet us on the road...on our particular road, whether it's a path of joy or sorrow. Jesus, whether we recognize him or not, always shows up to encourage and embolden us.

My second, longer, observation is about the breaking of the bread. When, in ordinary times, we gather for the Eucharist on Sunday, we sing "the disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread," recalling today's Gospel reading. As Episcopalians, we profess a belief in Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist, but it occurs to me that the Emmaus story can be read more broadly than the Eucharist only.

During these weeks of fasting from the Eucharist, I have embraced the opportunity to reexamine my relationship to food, actual food. In previous chapters of my life, I loved to cook, to experiment, to entertain. For any number of reasons, those days are far away, and in my life as a single person, I rarely cooked.

Before the days of "safer at home," I often relied on others to prepare what I ate. I had a favorite diner, with favorite menu items. Or I'd wander the prepared foods aisles at local grocery stores looking for something to reheat. Sometimes I'd treat myself to a restaurant meal to celebrate an occasion or some found money. The point is, that besides cereal or eggs in the morning, I rarely prepared actual food. After all, I reasoned, it's just me. Why bother?

But now, everything's different, and I've come to spend a lot of time in my tiny kitchen, paying attention to actual food. I'm becoming more mindful and purposeful about the decisions I make. What can I cook that can be stretched out over several days, with some variation each time? I'm learning to be creative about using what I actually have in the house. Do I really need to go the grocery store today? Usually, the answer is no. What can I do with that dried up thing in the vegetable drawer? Thank goodness for Google!

For many years, cooking for "just me" was a burden. But, over the weeks, complete with botched and burned attempts, of dashed hopes, I have found a great blessing and a deep peace in the choosing, preparing, waiting for and eating the fruits of God's creation. In every onion, every chicken breast, every can of beans and pot of rice, I am gifted with a glimpse of God's presence and God's blessing. To borrow from e.e. cummings:

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)¹

The final observation is that it gives me hope, especially in times of pandemic and fear and death, to realize that it takes time (often a great deal of time) to be able to recognize Jesus. Nobody in the scriptures got it right the first time; why should we think we can? New life is rarely smooth, it comes in fits and starts, with many dashed hopes along the way. And, harder still, Jesus is often not in the place where we think he should be. The point is that Jesus IS there, where Jesus is, patiently waiting for us.

The Emmaus story reminds us that God's presence and blessing are revealed in the small, common activities of our lives: a quiet walk or a simple meal, the rhythms and rituals of our seemingly ordinary days. Jesus is here with us on our road, in the extra phone calls we now make to loved ones, in health care workers and grocery store clerks, in the masked smiles and waves of strangers walking their dog.

My colleague Debie Thomas reminds us that, "if the Emmaus story tells us anything, it tells us that the risen Christ is not confined in any way by the seeming smallness of our lives. Wherever and whenever we make room, Jesus comes."²

"But we had hoped." Of course we had. Of course we do, but so many things are different now than we had hoped. And yet, the stranger who is Jesus still walks with us on our lonely journey; Jesus still warms our hearts as he reveals himself to us in Holy Scripture; Jesus still makes himself known to us in the breaking of the bread.

So, my friends, keep hoping, keep walking, keep looking for Jesus in places and in people you've never imagined. Christ is still risen. Alleluia. He is still risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,

¹ *i thank You God for most this amazing* by e.e. cummings (1894-1962).

² Debie Thomas, "But We Had Hoped" <https://www.journeywithjesus.net/lectionary-essays/current-essay?id=2616>

of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Form II

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops Ian and Laura; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____],

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present

I ask your prayers and thanksgivings for _____ .

Grace's Parish Prayer Cycle

Nancy Dennert.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. Andrew's, Milford; St. Peter's, Milford; Trinity, Milton.

Parishes in transition, transition teams, and interim clergy.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especially _____ whom we remember today].

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *feel free to use whatever version you prefer*

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

Leader Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Leader May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the
 power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*
 People Amen.

Hymn: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord (Hymnal #178)

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and so on.

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le-
 lu - ia! Give praise to his Name. 1. Je - sus is Lord of all the earth,
 2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
 3. We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
 4. Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,
 He is the King of cre - a - tion. Al - le
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
 Now we shall live for ev - er.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

MISCELLANEOUS PRAYERS

A Collect for Sundays

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

For Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

For those who face great uncertainty

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all
who wait or work in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make them the equal
of whatever lies ahead.
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you.

Adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 765

A Collect in Times of Pandemic

Grant we beseech thee, merciful Lord, help and deliverance unto us, who are visited with grievous sickness and mortality. Sanctify to us this our sore distress, and prosper with thy continual blessing those who labor to devise for mankind protection against disease and pain; through him who both healed and hallowed pain, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Proposed Prayer Book 1928 (Church of England)

For the Victims of Addiction

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. Amen.

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one
accord to make our common supplication to you; and you
have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two
or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the
midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions
as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of
your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

