

READINGS

The First Reading - Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

This reading is the culmination of a sermon we began last Sunday. Peter has been speaking to the Jews at Pentecost, proclaiming the crucified Jesus as their Lord and Messiah. Those who now respond are baptised and join the believing community.

The Psalm - Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17

The Second Reading - 1 Peter 1: 17-23

This letter to Gentile Christians suffering the severest persecution says that our salvation was not won without cost. It is by the suffering and death of Jesus that we are born again to new life in God.

The Gospel Reading - Luke 24: 13-35

Luke's Easter evening takes us on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, where the risen Jesus joins two of his friends as they walk and talk. Only when, at supper, he takes bread, give thanks, breaks it and shares it, do they come to recognise him.

PRAYERS

Collect One

Almighty God,
who hast given thine only Son
to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin,
and also an ensample of godly life;
Give us grace that we may always
most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit,
and also daily endeavour ourselves
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect Two

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
Give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened
and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers

Forgive us, God of Easter. Walk with us, so we can become companions to the lost.
Welcome us, so we can include the hopeless and the homeless. Love us, so we can share

that love with everyone we meet on our journey, as we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, into life with you. Amen.

Elusive God,
companion on the way,
you walk behind, beside, beyond;
you catch us unawares.
Break through the disillusionment and despair
clouding our vision,
that, with wide-eyed wonder,
we may find our way and journey on
as messengers of your good news. Amen.

Emmaus Prayer

Luke 24:13-35

Risen One, like those disciples on the road to Emmaus, we struggle to recognize you in the everyday journey of our lives. We seek your wisdom in the midst of the questions we have about the circumstances we find ourselves in—circumstances sometimes beyond our control, but often of our own making.

Open our eyes, Light of the World, to your work of transformation in and around us. As we walk with you day by day, may your new life be made manifest in what we say to others. Help us to understand the power of our words to hurt or to heal; give us the graciousness to make all our conversations holy.

Just as we desire that our speaking be holy, may our seeing be holy as well. We are bombarded with images everyday O Christ, that shape our attitudes and behaviors. As you opened the scriptures to the disciples and taught them everything, open our eyes to behold you in your Word, in the beauty of nature, the beauty of another human being and the beauty of sacred art.

And in our seeing, help us to recognize and welcome the stranger in our midst. May our welcome be a celebration of the gifts and graces of persons who are different from us and not merely some token tolerance of an outsider.

You were known to the disciples in the breaking of the bread. May your resurrection presence guide us in the decisions we make about what we take into our bodies—especially what we eat and what we drink. Help us to understand our eating and drinking as sacred events, not to be abused or approached mindlessly.

So often we forget, Holy One, that you invite us to abide with you; to have our lives hidden in you. We thank you that you travel with us in our joys and our concerns. Amen.

Prayer based on the Road to Emmaus

Lord Jesus, this story tells us so much about you. You are:

not passive ethereal being, but a pursuer.
not a benign, nice associate, but one who risks speaking the truth in love.
not a coercive overpowering presence, but a patient teacher.

not an isolated, individualistic prophet, but a guest, even a host, whose true character is seen in table fellowship.

We praise you as our patient teacher, our ever-pursuing Lord. Amen.

by Nathan Bierma

Post Communion Prayer

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread.
Open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH 1

Our risen Lord Jesus revealed himself in the breaking of the bread. Let us pray that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for all those who are hungry or starving throughout the world. Bless all those who work to provide food for people everywhere, and lead all those who are given the responsibility to distribute food to do so honestly and fairly. We thank you for blessing us with your bountiful goodness, and help us all to share willingly of all which you have first given to us.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who hunger and thirst for righteousness and peace. Lead them all to your church where true righteousness and peace may be found. We pray that you will guide as your church to share the peace that you have given to us, and to help guide people who are lost and aching to you through Jesus Christ. We also pray for those who hunger for understanding. Reveal your word to them so that their eyes may be opened in faith.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are struggling with physical disabilities. Guide any treatment available and give them healing if it is your will. We pray that you will give comfort to all who have disabilities because of an accident or disease and strengthen them to continue with life and learn to adapt to their new situation. Bless those who work with them and give them strength and compassion in their work. We pray also for those around the world who are forced to beg for their living because of physical disability or other circumstances. We pray that you will give them what they require to lead a normal life, and fill us with generosity to give to people in need as we are able to.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Bless and protect all people who are sick and the dying and all who hunger for health. We pray for those who struggle with bad health in our community, especially *(insert names*

here). As you healed the cripple man in Jesus' name, bring your perfect healing to all who need it, and especially bring that ultimate healing of eternal life, through Jesus victory over death and hell.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Father, in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you have swallowed up death for ever, and opened up the way for all people to sit with you at the feast of eternal life. Feed us now and always with the bread of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH 2

Call to prayer

Our risen Lord Jesus revealed himself in the breaking of the bread. Here at this meal, let us pray that we may be fed with the bread of life.

The response:

Father, feed us with the bread of life,
that we may hunger no more.

Suggested intercessions

- * for the hungry and the starving throughout the world
- * for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness and peace
- * for farmers who struggle to make a living producing food for others
- * for the sick and the dying, who hunger for health
- * for those who hunger for understanding, that God's word may be revealed to them
- * for the whole communion of saints, that we may see Jesus in the breaking of bread

Concluding prayer

Father, in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you have swallowed up death for ever, and opened up the way for all people to sit with you at the feast of eternal life. Feed us now and always with the bread of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Thematic

Mighty God,
in whom we know the power of redemption,
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.
As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,
uphold us with knowledge of the final morning
when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,
we will share in his resurrection,
redeemed and restored to the fullness of life
and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

OR

Living God,

long ago, faithful women
proclaimed the good news
of Jesus' resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.
Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep,
and our faith as true. Amen.

OR

Creator of the universe,
you made the world in beauty,
and restore all things in glory
through the victory of Jesus Christ.
We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured
by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Intercessory

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his resurrection,
teaching them to love all people as neighbors.
As his disciples in this age,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe
in which we are privileged to live
and our neighbors with whom we share it.

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

Open our hearts to your power moving
around us and between us and within us,
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy,
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,
and in the healing of all that is broken. Amen.

OR

Holy God,
you have called us to follow in the way of your risen Son,
and to care for those who are our companions,
not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love.
Seeking to be true friends of all,
we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world.

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

Guide us in the path of discipleship,
so that, as you have blessed us,
we may be a blessing for others,
bringing the promise of the kingdom near
by our words and deeds. Amen.

OR

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
God invites us to bring our doubts and fears,
our joys and concerns, our petitions and praise,
and offer them for the earth and all its creatures.

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

Receive these prayers, O God,
and transform us through them,
that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand
not only what you do on our behalf,
but what you call us to do
so that your realm will come to fruition in glory. Amen.

SERMON STARTERS

Luke 24:13-35 on the Emmaus Road...

Picture the 2 disciples traveling the 7 miles from Jerusalem - *one of the named Cleopas...*
Imagine their feelings/fears....

1. Broken Hearts: - their world had fallen apart - hopes & dreams dashed at Calvary -
were discussing events in Jerusalem - were then joined by a stranger - the Saviour - but
failed to recognise him... were so depressed & distressed..

2. Bewildered Hearts:- confused, despondent, uncertain..

a) Aggrieved: *we had hoped that he was the one who was
going to redeem Israel* - but now with Jesus crucified & the body missing, they didn't know
what to think....

b) Amazed: by the story of the women - *they told us they had seen a vision of angels who
said that he was risen - but him they did not see...* It was all too much for them...

3. Burning Hearts:- *he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning
himself.* They said later (v32) *were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with
us on the road?* What a journey! What an exposition - to only 2!

4. Believing Hearts:- Recognition! Had invited Jesus - *urged him strongly "Stay with us
for it is nearly evening* - share supper - dangers of travelling after dark.. At supper *he took
bread, gave thanks, broke it & began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened &
they recognised him, & he disappeared from their sight.* It was the Lord - truly risen and
alive!!

They rushed back to Jerusalem & *found the 11,* & shared the good news - *The Lord is
risen!* **depression** vanished - **despair** banished - **death** conquered - **doubt**
disappeared...

Sadness was turned to joy - *the Lord has risen!*

Despair “ “ hope - *it is true!* Still OUR message!

-By Norman Porteous

Online

A sermon for the eucharist which relates the journey to Emmaus to the recognition in the breaking of bread.

<http://cms.welwyn.org.uk/index.php>

option=com_content&view=article&id=222:sma20080406jb&catid=51:wlwteamsermons&Itemid=82

Going My Way - a basic useful short article - three paragraphs - on "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way?" (Lk. 24:32) by John R. Donahue, S.J., who is the Professor of New Testament Studies at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, Md.

http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=1683

Two sermons at this site. "On the Road" based on Luke 24:13-35, and "Those God emptying days" based on Luke 24:13-35. Bruce Prewer ministers in Australia. Scroll down to get to the sermons.

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocA/30EAST3.htm>

The Eucharistic presence from Emmaus to us and to the end of time - a rich resource which may stimulate thought.

<http://www.beswick.info/rcresources/E3A96Ser.htm>