



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
26th April 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Our journey through Eastertide continues as we hear of the risen Jesus appearing to his friends: he walks with two disciples to Emmaus today, explaining the Scriptures to them, and helping them to believe. They finally recognise him in the "breaking of bread", the name given by the first Christians to the Eucharist, the Mass. Celebrating the resurrection, we praise God's glory as we say:

GLORIA

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.'

'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

REFLECTION

Leader: Perhaps the most significant part of this famous story of the road to Emmaus is the fact that the risen Jesus is willing to walk with his disciples, even though they are downcast and giving up. It reminds us of Pope Francis' famous saying, that the Church should be with people "even when they are walking away." Jesus never gives up on us. We may be feeling a bit lost, or sad, or frustrated on the journey of life at the moment: let us allow Jesus to walk with us, so that he may change our hearts and give us renewed joy.

A THOUGHT FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS: A long walk is a good way to *really* talk to a friend! You might be going out with your family once a day for a walk at the moment – perhaps use that to help you think of Jesus walking seven miles to Emmaus with his friends. How long would it take him? (Try and work it out!) His friends did not recognise him, but Jesus still walked all the way with them. This tells us that he will always be with us, whether we are at home, at school, or out for our daily walk!



PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Let us pray that the resurrection of Jesus may help us all on our journey through life.

Leader: Let us pray for families and friends at this time, especially the elderly and vulnerable We pray:

All: Risen Jesus, make our hearts burn within us!

Leader: We remember people who are struggling, and those who feel lost on the journey of life. We pray:

All: Risen Jesus, make our hearts burn within us!

Leader: We ask that we may look to the Scriptures to help us know Jesus. We pray:

All: Risen Jesus, make our hearts burn within us!

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Leader: Receive, O Lord, we pray, the prayers of your exultant Church, and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness, grant also that our faith may bear fruit in perpetual happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: Loving Father, it is our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. Through him the children of light rise to eternal life and the halls of the heavenly Kingdom are thrown open to the faithful; for his Death is our ransom from death, and in his rising the life of all has risen. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

THANKSGIVING PSALM

Leader: Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.'

All: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Leader: I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

All: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Leader: And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety.

For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay.

All: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Leader: You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever.

All: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: Let us pray. Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray, that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!