



26<sup>th</sup> April 2020

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Of Easter  
Year A

LITURGY  
FOR  
THE TIME  
IN  
LOCKDOWN

*Gathering Words:*

As we enter into this sacred place,  
put away the pressures of the world  
that ask us to perform,  
to take up masks,  
to put on brave fronts.

Silence the voices  
that ask you to be perfect.  
This is a time of compassion and welcoming.  
So, we bring all that we are  
and all that we yet can be,  
to this safe and holy place.

*LIGHTING OF A CHRIST CANDLE (optional)*

For Easter which reminds me  
that love is our greatest challenge,

I light this flame.

For gathering today in this sacred time,

I light this flame.

For the opportunity to be part of community,  
to remember the past, to plan for the future,  
to be alive in the present...

I light this flame.



## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Friends of God,  
we come into the presence of God  
to be stilled in heart  
We come to be inspired through imagination  
With believing hands we reach out to receive  
With eyes opened to new perspectives  
we will learn how to live in  
the free and spirited ways of Christ

## **THE PEACE**

God makes peace within us.  
God makes peace between us.  
The peace of God is always with us.

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

God of broad earth and deep sky,  
of wholesome bread and delicious wine,  
you delight us by your nearness.  
You astonish us through the ordinary ways  
you make yourself known.  
May delight enrich our worship,  
so that gratitude carries us forward  
onto roads of grace, goodness, and compassion.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

When all seems lost  
and circumstances leave us  
feeling empty and afraid;  
God of unwavering hope,  
may your words of life burn within our hearts.  
*(silent reflection)*

When trust seems impossible  
and our eyes remain tightly closed  
to the constant breaking in of Spirit;  
God of unwavering faith,  
may your words of life burn within our hearts.  
*(silent reflection)*

When our spirits feel dry and listless  
and where hurt or resentment  
creates barriers to human care and friendship;  
God of unwavering love,  
may your words of life burn within our hearts.

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Fellow travellers,  
alive to God's constant word of faith, hope, and love,  
may we journey into life in new ways.  
May we take to heart God's gift of presence, peace, and forgiveness.  
Receive it gladly. Live it with passion and boldness.  
Christ is risen!  
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

---

### *God's Word For Us Today*

---



Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet:  
**a light to our path.**



## **INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL**

I felt such a fool!

**You may have felt a fool. I looked a fool!**

**All that talking we did with him.**

**All that "Are you the only one not to have heard?"**

"Have you been hiding somewhere?"

**"Do you know nothing of what happened?"**

How could we not have known?

**I can't believe we didn't recognize him!**

Until the bread was broken!

**Yes, until he broke the bread.**

Then all of heaven's light reflected in those eyes.

**And his voice echoed round us**

**as if we were sitting amidst heaven's mountains.**

And we stared.

**Silenced.**

In awe.

**Shocked.**

Comforted.

**Amazed.**

Reassured.

**Astonished.**

Loved.

**Yes, loved.**

I still felt a fool.

**And I know I looked a fool.**

It won't be the first time.

**Let's go and tell the others.**

## *The Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV)*

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 18 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?" 19 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, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 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. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 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. 24 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."

25 Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?"

27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 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. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

32 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?" 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Lord, may your word live in us:  
**And bear much fruit to your glory.**



*“Cleopas”*

*from The Gospel Of Joseph of Arimathea  
by James Harpur*

The sun was reddening on our left.  
We listened to our dreary steps  
Watched images of Golgotha  
That followed us like village dogs.  
A donkey passed the other way —  
Its eyes were looking straight and down,  
The rider looking straight and blind  
To our existence.  
So we progressed  
And kept a slow but steady rhythm  
Exchanging minimal remarks  
Then let a silence overtake us.

Eventually we heard the footsteps,  
A pilgrim, as we thought, like us  
Returning from Jerusalem.  
He came up level by my side  
And yet I never really saw him.  
I could not see beyond  
My thoughts parading death, loss  
And isolation through my mind.

When later at the inn he broke  
The bread in that hot boisterous room  
It was as if a silence rose  
Like incense, and I saw his face  
At once, was seized by an enchantment,  
The sense that only I could see  
A person who I knew was dead —  
As if I'd stepped inside a dream awake  
To meet a loved one from the past.  
He said true vision came from love,  
Which is a purifying force  
That strips corruption, makes you see  
The rose that shines within the rose,  
Reveals a person's kindness

Beneath his cunning, hate and spite.  
And then he said — these were his words: `   
I almost left you at Emmaus  
But then you blurted out to me  
"Friend, don't go, it's nearly night —  
Why don't you stay and eat with us."  
And there was something beautiful In your direct sincerity,  
Something so natural and open:

That was the moment when you saw me —  
Although the seeing had not reached  
Your eyes — not when I broke the bread,  
Which was just an outward sign.  
Look, I may bless and break the bread  
A thousand times hereafter  
In all the inns of Palestine  
And all the taverns of the empire  
And if you have excluded love  
Then you may look for me forever  
In family, friends and strangers  
In every region of the world  
But find just dusty soulless bodies,  
In everyone you see and hold.'



*A Contemporary Reflection  
On The Word Can Be Found on The  
Anglican Church Mallorca Website*



**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:**

Appear within our lives, Jesus Christ,  
that we may see the truth about our world  
through your loving eyes.

When we can see no way ahead,  
discouraged by events,  
and the bad things  
which happen to good people,  
speak to us of life  
which rises in the face of trouble.

Silent reflection

Inspire us with your presence, we pray O Christ.  
Point us to a different pathway,  
one which leads to hospitality  
and the gathering around the table  
of all who wait for your invitation.

Silent reflection

We pray now for those  
who need your healing, comfort and strength this day:  
The people pray

Hear our prayers, which we bring to you in humble faith.  
Do not leave any of us alone on the road  
as we need you with us now.  
Come to those who cry out into the night.  
Find them when they have no voice to speak.  
Take our hands and lead us towards them in love, we pray.  
Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER:***

**Most compassionate Life-giver,  
may we honour and praise you:  
may we work with you to establish  
your new order of justice, peace and love.  
Give us what we need for growth,  
and help us, through forgiving others,  
to accept forgiveness.  
Strengthen us in the time of testing,  
that we may resist all evil.  
For all the tenderness,  
strength and love are yours, now and forever.  
Amen.**

*(W Wallace)*

***LITANY OF DEDICATION***

*The Christ Candle is extinguished*

On this side of resurrection,  
the path is set to a new future;  
and our trust is in our God,  
for we are never abandoned to death.  
We are on a path of life.  
Here we meet Jesus with us,  
walking the road beside us.

He sets the way before us,  
on the path of life.

The pilgrimage continues,  
the journey keeps on keeping on,  
calling us into the world,  
and beyond,  
for we are on the path of life.

The Way of Peace.  
The Roadway to the future.  
A heritage of joy.  
Amen

## **BLESSING**

*The Christ Candle is extinguished*

And may our eyes be open,  
our hearts untied,  
our minds unlocked.  
And the world know, the presence of God,  
in every path of life.  
Amen

### **JUST A THOUGHT!**

The moving story of the Emmaus walk can be ours. When we discuss the faith, its challenges and its hopes, the Christ walks with us and is present in the Holy Spirit, often enlightening and enlarging our conversation. When we stop and feel that presence and pray that Christ will stay with us, the broken bread and poured out wine are placed in our hands as the gift and sign of grace. We can be truly open to the mystery of the Eucharist and feel its wonder each time, rather than taking it for granted. It is interesting how moving it is to see people receive it for the first time, or after a long separation or alienation. You see the gratitude and trembling hope on their faces. If we talk with them, they tell us what they have seen and believed, just as the people on the Emmaus Road.