

Service for Week 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter By Chaplain Andy

### **Our Opening Prayer.**

Lord Jesus like the two on the road to Emmaus, so often we journey through life unaware of your presence. Even though we may not realize it you are there alongside us at every stage on our journey through life. Open our eyes Lord that we may see you better in the everyday things of our lives.

**Amen**

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father who art in heaven,...**Amen**

**Bible Reading Luke 24:13-31**

On the Road to Emmaus

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers

handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

*Holy words, Holy wisdom,*

***Thanks be to God.***



## Reflection

After Jesus suffered a horrific death on the cross it wasn't just his disciples who suffered a great loss. Many followers of Jesus who had perhaps travelled many miles from their villages and towns to hear him and follow him were left shocked and grieving after his death.

In our bible reading from Luke, we hear about two such followers. It has often been assumed they were two men but could have been a man and a woman travelling together. When this stranger they had met on the road asked about what things had happened in Jerusalem, they could not believe that anybody had not heard about Jesus' arrest and subsequent death on a cross. Everyone far and wide had been talking about it.

So, as they walked along, they related the whole account of what had taken place to this stranger. They even told him what was really puzzling them- the fact that the woman had gone to the tomb but did not find Jesus' body.

The stranger then told them what was predicted to happen from the scriptures had actually happened and they had been witnesses to it. But even then, the two travelers did not realize who it was that had joined them on the road that day.

It was only when He decided to join them in a meal together where they were going to stop for the night that something wonderful occurred. As the stranger sitting with them broke the bread to share, they suddenly realized that – yes incredibly it was actually Jesus come back from the dead who was sitting with them right there.

They did not quite believe all the words, the prophesies and teaching that Jesus had spoken about on the road. It was only in that simple everyday act of breaking bread that Jesus did while at the table with them that they realized and believed who he was.

Sometimes we have difficulty believing all the words but it is through our relationships with others and sharing the simple everyday things of life that we can recognise Jesus Christ. In kind words, in love for each other, for the sick and the rejected is where we find Jesus and understand why he came. **Amen**

## Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we rejoice in the good news of your resurrection. You met with Mary in the garden; you met with Thomas in his disbelief; you met with two followers on the Emmaus Road. Meet with me now, bringing light after darkness, until that day when I shall experience your love for all eternity. **Amen.**

Prayers inspired by 'Prayfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett