

**Transformation – NOW!
EASTER**

Hymn:

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise

Sung by St Martin's Voices

Alleluia, Alleluia!
hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the Cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia, Alleluia,
glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, Alleluia,
to the Triune Majesty.

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)

Opening prayer

Christ is risen!

Let us pray for those who do not share our Easter joy:

We pray for those
who live in the shadow of darkness and despair;
for those who live with the hopelessness
of shattered dreams
trust betrayed
opportunities lost
love denied;
for those who live
without faith or hope or love;
who see no resurrection,
no hope of new beginnings
for themselves or for the world.

If Christ be truly risen,
let us show forth his resurrection
so that all who meet us shall know
that he is risen indeed!

from *Easter Reflections* by Pat Baker

Bible Reading: Luke 24: 13-35 (NIV)

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 the only one visiting Jerusalem who does 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 they did not see Jesus.”

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah 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 continued on 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. They

asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Reflection

The Emmaus Road

by Annemarie Klassen

They walked with heavy sadness,
those two disciples on a long, lonely journey.
A stranger joined them. It was Jesus.
But they could only see a stranger,
a friend to share the long walk ahead.

He spoke with them,
comforted their sadness and offered new thoughts.
When he gave thanks for the bread,
broke it and gave it to them,
they saw and they knew it was Jesus.

People are sometimes afraid
to see the hope and new life their faith shows them.
They think they must consider only what is real.

But what is real? Hunger is real,
so are the faces of children with no hope.
Greed is real and so is violence and war.
People of faith can see that.
Why can't they see the presence of the Lord,
who speaks to their hearts about other things
that are just as real?

Love is real.
The eyes of faith see new possibilities
where none were found before.
Even death does not hold back the spirit of God.

So let's look again.

Let's see the living Christ

sharing the journey, inspiring new hope.

Among the poor and homeless,

in the prisons and hospitals,

in the lands of famine and war,

new hopes are waiting to be seen.

The journey starts with ordinary steps

as we walk our daily paths,

looking around as Jesus did with the love of God in our view.

Hymn: The day of resurrection

sung by St Martin's Voices

The day of resurrection,

Earth, tell it out abroad!

the passover of gladness,

the passover of God!

From death to life eternal,

from earth up to the sky,

our God has brought us over

with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,

that we may see aright

the Lord in rays eternal

of resurrection light;

and, listening to his accents,

may hear, so calm and plain,

his own 'All hail!' and, hearing

may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,

and earth her song begin,

the round world keep high triumph,

and all that is therein;

let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy that has no end.

*Anastaseos hemera
John of Damascus (c.675-749)
translated John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

Prayer

from the Church of South India

O risen Lord, who in your first appearance to Mary
was mistaken for the gardener:
be present with us,
and show yourself to us all
in all our mistakes and uncertainties.

O risen Lord, who appeared to your dejected disciples
on the road to Emmaus,
and opened to them the scriptures,
so that their hearts burned within them:
be present with us, and set our hearts on fire
with love for you.

O risen Lord, who gave to your distraught followers
the assurance of healing and forgiveness:
be present with us,
and bring together all Christians in peace and harmony.

O risen Lord, who mindful of the needs of your disciples,
prepared a meal by the Sea of Galilee:
be present with us,
and make yourself known to us
in all acts of hospitality and sharing.

O risen Lord, who in your final appearance
on the Mount of Olives,
lifted up hands of blessing on all people:
be present with us,
and grant that our prayers today may be taken up into yours
on behalf of the whole world.

Our Diocesan Mothers' Union Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we meet
as members of Mothers' Union in Manchester
may we know your presence and hear your word.
Teach us how best to serve you, seeing not just the needs of this
diocese but those of the wider world.
Help us at all times to trust in you and seek to do your will. Fill us with
your spirit, encourage us, use us and bless us, that we may have
strength to follow your way.
We pray in sure hope and the assurance of your power.
Amen.

Thine be the glory

sung by St Martin's Voices

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:

Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

Refrain

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life!
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Refrain

Edmund L Budry (1854-1932), translated by Richard B Hoyle (1875-1939)

Blessing

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Material: as stated
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**Thursday Prayers next month will be on
11th May 2023 – Ascensiontide**