

**26th April 2020 6pm Compline – The Road to Emmaus?
Led by Felicity Hawke, with reflection by Lynda Howells
and reading by Ann Gibbons
(Luke 24:13-35)**

[Felicity Hawke:]

Preparation

The Lord Almighty, grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Let's just pause to reflect on the past day.

If you have the words in front of you¹, please join me in saying,

**Most Merciful God, we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ.**

Amen.

If you have a printed copy of the service, please join in the parts in bold.

O God make speed to save us.
**O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever.
Amen.
Alleluia**

Psalm 134 [CW]

¹ Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

² Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦
and bless the Lord.

³ The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦
give you blessing out of Zion.

¹ <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer/night-prayer-compline>

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever.

Amen.

[Ann Gibbons:]

The reading is from Luke's gospel, chapter 24, beginning at verse 13,

The walk to Emmaus [Luke 24:13-35 NLT]

¹³ That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. ¹⁶ But God kept them from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. ¹⁸ Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

¹⁹ "What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. ²⁰ But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

²² "Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. ²³ They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! ²⁴ Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. ²⁶ Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" ²⁷ Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, ²⁹ but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. ³⁰ As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

³² They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" ³³ And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, ³⁴ who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."

³⁵ Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

[Felicity Hawke:]

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.
I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

The Nunc dimittis or the song of Simeon²

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

¹ Now, Lord, let your servant go in peace: ♦
your word has been fulfilled.

² My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

³ A light to reveal you to the nations ♦
and the glory of your people Israel.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Reflection

[Lynda Howells]

Have you ever experienced disappointment with someone you put your trust in? Someone you thought you'd got to know really well? Who made promises, achieved amazing success in their life. And then suddenly they're gone and you are left lost, bereft, don't have a clue what is happening. You thought life was going to be so good, then it all went wrong. The one you put your trust in is in the dock, and ends up being killed as a common criminal. Your world has fallen apart before your eyes. Our world resembles this sense of desolation and loss at the

moment. Everything we thought we knew, were sure of, in disarray. All around are self-isolation, being separated from family and friends, our finances out of our own control. So many of us touched by the death of family, friends and work colleagues, not been able to meet and share a hug.

The reading tells us about followers of Jesus walking along the road, feeling totally lost, and Jesus came to them. Jesus will come to us. He is alive. He cares for us and will walk with us through this coronavirus and all our daily problems. Jesus will not let us down.

Talk to Jesus. Tell him your worries, your fears, everything. Trust him. He loves you. He died for you to live in freedom.

Amen.

Prayers

[Lynda Howells:]

We pray for everyone affected by the coronavirus, remembering especially all who are suffering with the virus. We ask that they will know your peace and your healing.

We pray for all living alone, that your Holy Spirit would comfort them at all times. We pray for all who are mentally affected at this time, that they would be able to receive the support that they need.

We thank you for the dedication of so many doctors, nurses, carers, emergency services, the military, their families and all who are helping in the communities. We ask you to protect them from the virus and keep them well.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

We bring to you all who are bereaved at this time of isolation, whether through the virus or other, that they would be comforted.

We pray for our government, that they will be guided by you, they will have integrity, honesty, wisdom, knowledge and discernment in dealing with the virus and all the other problems of government.

We pray for countries around the world where poverty is a cause for major concern. Please may their people be helped. Send your angels, Lord, to take comfort, healing and hope for the future for all who are suffering.

Father God take our prayers and use them, we pray, to spread your love, goodness and hope

And we thank you, Lord, for all who have responded to the needs to care for others.

So, merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

[Felicity Hawke:]

The collect for the third Sunday of Easter:

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 your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Let's say the Lord's Prayer together

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Collect

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us well in safety.

Abide with us Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you O Christ.

The Lord bless us and keep us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.
Amen.

Thank you for joining us and we hope you will come again.

[Transcribed by <https://otter.ai> and YouTube with help from Hamish Blair]

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