

# Daily Prayer

*Feria*

*Wednesday, April 20, 2022*

*We enter into a time of quiet. We offer to God our selves and in the silence know that God embraces us as God's very own. We offer our hopes and our concerns through our prayers and in the silence listen for God. Today we hold in our prayers the ordinary moments in life—the trials and the joys.*

*We begin by saying*

O Lord, open our lips.

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

In your resurrection, O Christ,

**let heaven and earth rejoice, Alleluia.**

## The First Reading

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, 'Look at us.' And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, 'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.' And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask

for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

*Acts 3.1-10*

## **The Psalm**

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; ♦  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises, ♦  
and tell of all his marvellous works.

Rejoice in the praise of his holy name; ♦  
let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord.

Seek the Lord and his strength; ♦  
seek his face continually.

Remember the marvels he has done, ♦  
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

O seed of Abraham his servant, ♦  
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God; ♦  
his judgements are in all the earth.

He has always been mindful of his covenant, ♦  
the promise that he made for a thousand generations:

The covenant he made with Abraham, ♦  
the oath that he swore to Isaac,

*Psalm 105.1-9*

## The Gospel Reading

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. 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?' 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 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?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*Luke 24.13-35*

*We continue with the reflection that follows. In silence, we ask what the reading has to say to us today. Is there something in the reflection that draws us more deeply into the reading? What does God have to say to us? What do we have to ask God?*

## **The Reflection**

*The Rev'd Paul MacLean*

This is perhaps the best loved of all the resurrection stories. We come back to it again and again, and each time there are new insights or resonances as we bring to it more of our experiences along the way.

We think of the basic story, of how two disciples (not presumably amongst the 12) moved from grief and despair, with all their hopes for the coming of the kingdom of God shattered by the crucifixion of Jesus, to a renewed, transformed hope and energy as the risen Jesus appears to them in both teaching on the road and in the breaking of bread.

And we think of how this basic story was told by Luke for the benefit of the late first century Gentile Christian communities, who were feeling despondent at the persecutions they were facing and the ever-receding possibility of Jesus coming again to inaugurate fully

the Kingdom. In other words, feeling more the absence of Jesus than his presence. Luke is saying to those Christians, 'You too are Cleopas and the other disciple. You too are on the road walking away from Jerusalem, despondent because you are bereft of the presence of the one in whom you placed your hopes. You too can have the life-giving and life-changing experience of the risen Jesus in the OT scriptures and the community meal of the eucharist. And this experience of the presence of the risen Jesus is given to us along the way, our own particular road.'

Today I think this story has special resonance because it occurs as the day falls, night descends, and the gloom of the evening matches the despair of us, the travellers. It's in fact the very same day as the resurrection. Here we are, celebrating Easter, for us Christians the triumph of life over death, the triumph of love over evil, at the very time when death and evil, separation and loss, seem to have the upper hand. Our own road as individuals and indeed as human beings who share this planet with so many billions of humans likewise made in the image of God is currently a road with much darkness and many shadows. We long to be joined by a stranger who addresses our despair, who shares a meal with us, who is totally present, who brings us the hope and energy to re-engage with the struggles against 'the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God.' (from our baptismal covenant)

Here are some encouraging words from one of our most beloved companions on this common journey to Emmaus. Desmond Tutu died on Dec 26, 2021. I have always valued his words, his thoughts and prayers because, although they are expressed with great simplicity and directness, they are born from both direct confrontation with evil and deep appreciation of the human capacity for goodness and God's abundant grace.

'Our human nature has been distorted. I mean, we are actually quite remarkable creatures. In our religion I am created in the image of God. I am a God carrier. It's fantastic. I have to be growing in godlikeness, in caring for the other. I know that each time I act compassionately, I have experienced a joy in me that I find in nothing else.' (The Book of Joy, pg 257)

*When the time is right, we conclude our time of silence with the canticle*

## **The Canticle ~ Bless the Lord**

Blessed are you, the God of our ancestors, ♦  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed is your holy and glorious name, ♦  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you, in your holy and glorious temple, ♦  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you who look into the depths, ♦  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you, enthroned on the cherubim, ♦  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, ♦  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you in the heights of heaven, ♦  
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

*The Song of the Three 29-34*

*We continue in prayer for those people and situations that we hold up before God (The Intercessions) and continue with the concluding collect, the Lord's prayer and the closing sentences.*

## The Intercessions

With faith and love and in union with Christ,  
let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace.  
Have mercy on your people,  
for whom your Son laid down his life:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,  
and have pity on those torn apart by division:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,  
and deliver them from evil:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Look in mercy upon all who suffer,  
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bring comfort to the dying,  
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Give rest to the departed  
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us commend the world, for which Christ died,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

**Amen.**

*Our prayers conclude*

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
through your rising again hope has been renewed,  
joy has been restored

and life has been re-created for this whole world.  
Give us grace in this season of celebration  
to rise to you in our hearts,  
that with prayer and song we may re-echo  
that hymn of joy which your Easter began,  
O Jesus Christ our Lord.

*[let us pray as our Saviour taught us,]*

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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen

*We conclude*

May Christ our Saviour give us peace.

**Amen.**





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The Collect: The Canterbury Book of New Parish Prayers © 2021, M J Kramer, Canterbury Press

The Concluding Sentence: Common Worship: Daily Prayer © The Archbishops' Council 2005 and published by Church House Publishing.

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