

*A Liturgy of the Word Third Sunday of Easter*

*Date: 23 April 2023*

The video of the service or the sermon can be viewed on the website, YouTube or Facebook

*Hymn*

*Refrain:*

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of creation. Refrain.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth.  
Jesus has died and has risen. Refrain.**

**We have been crucified with Christ.  
Now we shall live forever. Refrain.**

**God has proclaimed the just reward:  
Life for all men, alleluia! Refrain.**

**Come, let us praise the living God,  
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. Refrain.**

*Author: Donald Fishel*

*Call to Worship*

**Come, let us embark on the Emmaus journey.  
Where encounter trumps uncertainty.**

**Come, let us embark on the Emmaus journey.  
Where we meet the Risen Christ.**

**Come, let us embark on the Emmaus journey.  
In breaking bread with the travelling stranger.**

*Gathering prayer:*

Risen Lord, you meet us outside the tombs of our own despair,  
where our grief has so changed our perspective, we no longer recognise you.  
You meet us in places of our deepest fears and give us the courage –  
to live by your peace. You meet us on the road to new beginnings –  
plagued by uncertainty and trepidation, you nourish our souls.  
This Eastertide, bind us together in your deep love for us,  
and empower us to be witnesses to the Resurrection  
and the new life you bring. We ask this in your precious name.  
**Amen.**

*Collect for Purity*

**Almighty God  
to whom all hearts are open  
all desires known  
and from whom no secrets are hid:**



cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### *The Penitence*

*We come now to a time of penitence.*

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

*We confess together:*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father  
in penitence we confess  
that we have sinned against you  
through our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.**

### *Absolution*

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### *The Collect*

Risen Christ,  
you revealed yourself to the disciples  
and calmed their fears:  
meet us in our uncertainties  
and walk with us into the new life you bring;  
for you live and reign with the Father  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen

### *The Word of God*

Acts 2:14a,36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4,11-18  
1 Peter 1:17-23



*Gospel Reading*

Luke 24:13-35

*The Sermon*

The Revd Margaret Place

*Prayers of Intercession*

Holy God, as we gather in fellowship and worship to hear your word, to sing your praise and to break bread in the presence of the Risen Christ, walk with us as individuals and as the Church of God on our Road to Emmaus. Open our eyes, as you did with Jesus' companions, to the reality and truth of the resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for all ministers of God's Word. We pray for readers throughout the Anglican Communion, as well as priests, deacons and parish ministers, and all who are called to proclaim and expound upon the Gospel message. As they do so this Eastertide, may the full import of the Resurrection be made known to many.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for the worldwide Anglican Communion, for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, for Archbishop Thabo. And we pray for the Diocese of Johannesburg, and Bishop Steve. May the Anglican Church be as a city set on a hill and witness to the glory of the Resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Creator God your son walked the roads and tracks of the Holy Land and taught us to seek your hand in the beauty and wonders of earth, sea and sky. We so often see too much evidence of poor stewardship in our surroundings, and it is easy to forget that the world belongs to you. Help us to recognise your presence in our modern world, and help us to use more wisely the resources of the earth.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Father God, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Saviour, who walks with us on our life's journey. We pray for all who travel with us in our family, among our friends, our work colleagues, and our sisters and brothers within this community. We pray for a deepening awareness of our need for one another and an ability to recognise your image in the hearts of everyone we meet.

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Loving God, send your son to walk with those we know who are going through a time of suffering and pain. Help us to always be aware of one another's needs and to respond accordingly and assist them with words and deeds onto the road of recovery. We pray especially for...

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Merciful God, accompany those travelling, through the valley of death, and may our love and prayers support those who walk that journey today.

(Add names of the recently departed and those whose year's mind occurs)

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer**

Faithful God, as we go from our worship today, out into your world, we thank you for walking alongside us wherever we travel and, if like those first disciples, we fail to be aware of you forgive us for our human weakness and open our eyes to see you as a constant companion and friend. Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

*Prayer for Offering*

Everlasting Father, thank you that you are the light of the world,  
guiding our steps on your path. Your word says that the earth is yours,  
and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to you.  
We recognize everything we have belongs to you.  
We acknowledge that our very lives belong to you.  
We now offer back to you a portion of what you have given us.  
May God the Father prepare our journey, Jesus the Son guide  
our footsteps and the Holy Spirit watch over us, on every path that we follow.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen**

*The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your Name  
your kingdom come  
your will be done  
on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen**

*Final Hymn*

**And can it be that I should gain  
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me?**

**Refrain:  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me!**

**'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love divine!  
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more. [Refrain]**

**He left His Father's throne above,  
So free, so infinite His grace;  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race;  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
For, O my God, it found out me. [Refrain]**

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;**



My chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth and followed Thee. [Refrain]

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. [Refrain]

Author: Charles Wesley (1738)

*Final Blessing*

May the companionship of Christ encourage you.  
May the self-giving of Christ nourish you.  
And may the joy of the resurrection  
astound you and propel you into sharing with others  
the Good News of the Gospel.  
In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen**

*Dismissal*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia  
**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia**



*Giving*

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to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's  
to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

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