

**St. Thomas' Cardiff & All Saints Boolaroo**

**3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**26th April 2020**

Christ is Risen  
He is Risen Indeed

Our help is in the Name of the Lord;  
The Maker of heaven and earth.

O God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2.38–39

**CONFESSION**

Heavenly Father, we confess to you our fears, our worries, and our anxieties. You have given us your perfect love which casts out all fear and your peace which transcends all understanding, but even still we feel dislodged, displaced, untethered, and uncertain during these times.  
We believe, Lord; help our unbelief.

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

O God, make speed to save us.  
O Lord, make haste to help us.

**READINGS**

**First Reading**

**Acts 2:14a,36-41**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Hear the word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

**Psalm**

**Psalm 116:1-4,11:18**

I love the Lord, because he heard my voice: the voice of my supplication; Because he inclined his ear to me: in the day that I called to him.  
The cords of death encompassed me, the snares of the grave took hold on me: I was in anguish and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I beseech you, deliver me!'  
How shall I repay the Lord: for all his benefits to me?  
I will take up the cup of salvation: and call upon the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord: in the presence of all his people.  
Grievous in the sight of the Lord: is the death of his faithful ones.  
O Lord, I am your servant, your servant and the child of your handmaid: you have unloosed my bonds.  
I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving: and call upon the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord: in the presence of all his people,  
In the courts of the house of the Lord: even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

## Second Reading

1 Peter 1:13-25

### A Reading From Peter's First Letter

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

For the word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

## Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter twenty four beginning at the thirteenth verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

For the gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Talk: [3rd Sunday of Easter](#) (Click)

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

For he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my  
helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Hebrew 13:5-6

## INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray

Holy God, 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**

God of love and liberty, We bring our thanks for the peace and security we enjoy, We remember those who  
in time of war faithfully served their country. We pray for their families, and for ourselves whose freedom  
was won at such a cost. Make us a people zealous for peace, and hasten that day when nation shall not lift  
up sword against nation neither learn war any more.

**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 and sea and the sky. We so often see too much of the 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 and within this community. We pray  
for a deepening awareness of our need for one another and of 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 on to the road of recovery. We pray for those on our prayer lists, those affected by the  
coronavirus, and we give thanks for all medical personal and those who are working during this crisis. Be  
with those who are going through a hard time as a result of the loss of their job and are feeling things won't  
get any better. Give them the peace that only you can give.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God accompany those travelling, through the valley of death and may our love and prayers sup-  
port those who walk that journey today. We pray for those who have died, for Paul and those who have  
died with the coronavirus. Be with their family and friends and help them to feel your loving presence in  
their lives at this time. We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God 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 our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

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 forever. Amen.

### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

May the Lord Jesus Christ be with us to protect us. May he go before us to guide us, and stand behind us to give us strength. May he look upon us, to keep us, and bless us. Amen

### REFLECTIONS ON READINGS

God's life and grace, and the gift of resurrection, are wonderful things to know about, but they mean very little in real terms without a response from us. While God's grace and love are always available, it is as we respond that we are able to appropriate and benefit from them. The power of Peter's sermon was only realised by his hearers when they responded to what he had said. The psalmist recognises that God's gracious rescue is made real when he responds with gratitude, praise and commitment. Peter invites the believers who have come to faith in Christ and received God's life to respond by living lives of love toward one another, which of course, is how God's life is experienced. Finally, the two disciples on the Emmaus Road have heard about Jesus' resurrection, but it is only when they recognise him at the meal as he breaks bread that the reality of the resurrection hits home to them and they experience it for themselves. It is not that God needs our response in order to love us, forgive us, or save us, but that for us to know, experience and live out of the life and grace of God, we need to appropriate what God has given us and respond to the realities that we encounter. This call for response is a powerful and hopeful part of the Gospel we preach, and is the gift we are invited to share in worship this week.



Jesus takes a post resurrection stroll 'incognito' on the road to Emmaus. **Luke 24:13-35**

Pastor Larson and his council president, Sven Johnson ended up in a heated argument over a seemingly minor worship detail. "I suggest we go home and pray to God to grant us peaceful hearts," said Pastor Larson as Sven stormed past him into the churchyard. After worship the next Sunday morning, Sven greeted Pastor Larson warmly. "I took your advice," he said. "I went home and said a prayer." "Great!" said Pastor Larson. "So did I! I prayed that God would grant us both peaceful hearts and a fresh start." "That's not what I prayed," said Sven. "I asked God to help me put up with you."

*How did Jesus' crucifixion save us? It's 'cause he nailed it!*

Deja Vu – When you think you're doing something you've done before, it's because God thought it was so funny, he had to rewind it for his friends.

## FR GARY'S SERMON

Well, I think we've all enjoy a walk along the beach now and then. And from the walks I've done over the years, I've managed to collect a few things along the way. (*show the coral*) Like these pieces of coral and (*show the lime stone*) and this interesting-shaped lime stone rock.

But as interesting as these thing are, or anything else we might happen to find on a beach walk, they can never compare to the amazing find of the two disciples on their walk to Emmaus in today's gospel reading. For this was a walk during which they found the risen Jesus, though they hadn't realized it.

These two disciples might have been a man and a woman. A masculine noun is used in the Greek, but the word could refer to a couple. And since they shared a home, there is speculation that it was Cleopas and his wife.

Emmaus was west of Jerusalem. So the disciples were walking towards a setting sun. They were walking into the night physically as well as spiritually, So when they met a stranger along the way, they told him that Jesus of Nazareth, whom they had expected to deliver Israel from its present occupation by Roman troops and bring in the kingdom of God, is dead! Rumours had reached them that the tomb was empty. Jesus, however, had not been seen. And we can hear the disappointment in their words when they said, "We had hoped that he was the one..." But everything became clear to them when the stranger, using his knowledge of the scriptures, explained the meaning of all the things that had just happened.

Towards the end of our gospel reading, the disciples 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?"

But even though Jesus had caused the disciples hearts to burn within them, he still didn't force himself on them; he waited for their invitation. God has given everyone the gift of free-will; we can use it to invite Christ into our lives or to allow him to pass on.

And in this case, the disciples invited Jesus into their lives without even knowing it, because the stranger doesn't disclose himself as Jesus until he goes into their home, where he sat at the table with them, took some bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

And when the disciples recognize Jesus in joyous disbelief, he vanishes out of sight.

So what can we learn from this immortal story?

First, many of us rejoice in good news but are often reluctant to share it. We've probably all heard the popular religious slogan, "Keep the Faith," which is a really good thing to do, but Christians should be encouraged, and sent forth to "Share our Faith," as well.

Faith is meant to be shared. But obviously, we can't share something that's foreign to us. And I've heard it said, "There are two things a person cannot do. You cannot tell someone something you don't know. And you cannot lead someone where you are not going." To share the faith means we translate belief in Jesus into concern and action. We will always treasure what we read in the scriptures.

But we're also compelled to share the meaning of what we read in the scriptures.

And I've experienced no greater joy in my 33 years of ministry than to see men and women discover the loving presence of Christ and translate that presence into compassionate ministry, which finds expression in significant, loving service.

A second lesson we can learn from the Emmaus story is the way Jesus reveals himself to us in simple ordinary acts. It is a staggering revelation to learn that these two disciples were not in the Upper Room. They were not among the twelve apostles.

But obviously, they had been present in some setting with Jesus during his ministry, and now he is present in their home in Emmaus. Jesus had come into their home at their invitation. They share an ordinary meal in an ordinary Jewish home, with an ordinary loaf of bread. In this act, as Jesus breaks the bread, these two disciples recognize him.

What a lesson!

We believe Christ is present at the Eucharist. And he is also present at the table in our own homes.

So when it's all said and done, this story speaks to us about the gift of hospitality.

These disciples might never have recognized Jesus had they not invited him into their home!

I wonder, do we ever hesitate to invite Jesus into certain parts of our lives?

If our answer to that question is yes, we can be assured that Jesus, who doesn't force himself on anyone, is always waiting for an invitation.