

## Readings & Prayers for

### 3rd Sunday of Easter

26.04.2020

#### Collect

Almighty Father,  
who in thy 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 thee continually in righteousness and truth;  
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

#### Readings

1 I love the Lord,  
for he has heard the voice of my supplication;  
because he inclined his ear to me  
on the day I called to him.

2 The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pains of hell took hold of me;  
by grief and sorrow was I held.

3 Then I called upon the name of the Lord:  
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'

4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.

5 The Lord watches over the simple;  
I was brought very low and he saved me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul,  
for the Lord has been gracious to you.

7 For you have delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

## **1 Peter 1 17 - 23**

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. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

## **Luke 24 13 - 35**

On that same day, two of the disciples 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?' Jesus 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 Jesus.' 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 Jesus; 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.

### **Intercessions for 3rd Sunday after Easter by Hilary Denning**

We pray for churches throughout the world and for their clergy. We pray especially for hospital chaplains in particular and ask you Lord to sustain them in their work. As we pray in our individual homes – around the country and around the world – we are united as one family and we lift up our hearts together in prayer.

#### **Lord in your mercy , hear our prayer**

We pray for the Queen, her government and ministers. We pray that they will stay safe and that with your guidance they will find the best way through this pandemic with compassion and integrity. Our world calls for cooperation among national leaders, scientists, health care providers, and all who are instrumental in overcoming this crisis. May our prayers and support be with them all.

#### **Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

We ask for your blessing Lord, on our parish, remembering especially those who live in Wheelers Close, Wheelers Drive & Wheelers Road. Ever present God, be with us in our isolation, be close to us in our distancing, be healing in our sickness, be joy in our sadness, be light in our darkness, be wisdom in our confusion, be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar.

We give heartfelt thanks for the NHS, carers, key workers and the army of people who are providing support for them to do their work. We pray for those making PPE at home, delivery drivers, shop workers, refuse collectors who are just some of the many allowing the lockdown to be both tolerable and effective. Bless their work Lord and sustain them in their daily lives.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**

Loving Lord, we pray for patience to help us through isolation. We ask you to bring solace to people who are lonely, anxious or depressed. Help us to let them know your loving embrace. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low that they may rejoice in the comfort of knowing that nothing can separate them from your love. We pray for the sick, especially for Rachael Macfarlane, Rhoda, David, Evan & Annie Dwyer, Judy Flook, Miranda Cooper, Rose Stenner, Paul & Margaret Knott, Eric Mitchard, Irene Leet, Faye McDermott, Anne Hatton, Rob & Glyn Gilliland, Gerrard Monks, Trevor & Elizabeth Bell, Fr Roy Boots, Nicholas Hambleton, Mary Hickmott, Helen Plummer & Daniel Plummer. God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have died. In our Years mind we pray for (M) Thompson Merrilees, Ewart Williams (T) Linda Eastment, Sam Eaton, Colin Chapman, Joan Gregory, Fred Eaton (W) Leonard Shearn, Dora Newton (T) Norma Chiswell, Dennis Rendell (F) Cyril Stevens, Bobby

Martindale, Albert Steel, Leslie Dix, Mavis Howells (S) Thomas Bartlett  
It is hard to accept the difficult numbers of deaths that we are seeing each day as a result of the Coronavirus. Lord Jesus, our Redeemer, you willingly gave yourself up to death so that all people might be saved and pass from death into a new life. Listen to our prayers; look with love on those who have died, welcome them into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain but fullness of peace and joy. We pray for the families of those who have died for whom the numbers are more than a statistic and who are denied a proper goodbye to their loved ones, You are the God of all compassion who comforts us in time of need and we ask you to bless those that are facing such a trial this week. We pray Lord that you draw close to them and uphold them so that they find comfort and support at this time of tragedy and grief.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**

And so rejoicing in the fellowship of Mary, John and all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen**

### **A thought for Easter 3 by Father Jim**

“... he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him.” (Luke 24.30b-31a)

At the time of the First World War, the principal morning service in most Anglican churches in England was Matins. This proved to be a problem for the Royal Army Chaplains Dept and its chaplains in the trenches who were trying to bring the presence of God into those mud-filled, blood-filled holes in the ground. It was a problem because many of the young men in uniform were unchurched. The glories of the Te Deum led by a parish choir, however humble, had not become a window on to faith for these boys. But more fundamentally, with the exception of the Psalms, Matins didn't speak to the soldiers' situation where suffering and death were all around, fear and despair endemic. What did speak to them was the Eucharist. The men didn't need to be familiar with the liturgy, for they soon came to recognise God in a body broken for them and blood poured out for them. Communion brought them the comfort of God's real presence and hope for life even there where death seemed to rule.

What about us? We aren't fighting in trenches nor do we live under an occupying power. Or do we? Isn't that a perfect description of sin? An occupying power? And are we immune to doubt and despair? Clearly not. We walk the road to Emmaus on many a day of misgivings, when more bad news on the world's scene, especially this pandemic, makes us question if God's in his heaven, when reading our scriptures brings God no closer and our prayers can ring hollow.

Sometimes our hearts are filled with the kind of complaints that concerned the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Like them, we are tempted to tell each other all the terrible things that have been happening to us in the last few days. In our case, perhaps, being stuck in doors not being able to get out, the loneliness of life — and all these things so fill our minds that we fail once again to recognise Jesus.

This is why the Eucharist is such a miracle of grace. It has the power to lift us off the wearying Emmaus road, to still the questioning, to place our troubles at the foot of the cross, as we hold out our hands for the bread of heaven and the wine of the new covenant.

So yes, we can lose sight of Jesus in our questioning, in our reading of the Bible. But gather round the Lord's Table for bread and wine and there is the defining moment of our discipleship. We know Jesus lives, not because a scholar has told us, not because of rumours of resurrection appearances, not because of all the work we've done in his name, but because, quite simply, we meet him where he's always been, in the broken bread and shared wine. Even though at this time we have to do it in virtual streaming, Christ is still there in the bread and wine bread. In the trenches of our fear and despair he is there — if only for a fleeting moment. But it's a moment that can sustain us through the coming week.

Fr Jim