**Easter 2**

St Barnabas Church, Thatcham

Service Companion

**Opening Prayer**

God, we gather as your people,

We come to walk the journey together,

To talk and to share along the way,

To meet and to know Jesus

Help us to marvel at all that Jesus has done for us.
**Amen**.

**Readings**

# Luke 24:13-35 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

### The Walk to Emmaus

**13**Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25995a)] from Jerusalem, **14**and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. **15**While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, **16**but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. **17**And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-25999b)] **18**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?” **19**He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-26001c)] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20**and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. **21**But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-26003d)] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. **22**Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, **23**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. **24**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.” **25**Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! **26**Was it not necessary that the Messiah[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-26008e)] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” **27**Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

**28**As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. **29**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. **30**When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. **31**Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. **32**They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-26014f)] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” **33**That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. **34**They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” **35**Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Prayers**

**Lord, the disciples** on the road to Emmaus recognized you in the words you shared with them and in the bread you broke with them. Today we live in times where our normal ways of meeting are disrupted and where we cannot gather together to share bread in the Eucharist.

Jesus break in where we least expect and help us to find you in the ordinary of our days right now. In our walking, our waiting, our time with family, the food we are blessed to have. With confidence we pray:

**All**: Stay with us, Lord.

**Lord, we pray** for our town, for our brothers and sisters in other churches who are seeking you in new ways too. We pray that we might, together, find innovative ways to continue to support each other. That we might remember to pray for each other as we continue, together, to be your church in Thatcham. We pray:

**All**: Stay with us, Lord.

**Lord we pray** for all the sick and dying in our community. We particularly pray for those affected by corona virus and those whose health is being negatively affected by the lockdown restrictions. May they find strength in Christ who know what it is to suffer and stands with us in all pain. We pray:

**All**: Stay with us, Lord.

**Lord we pray** for the sad and disillusioned and those who feel that they have lost their way and lost meaning in their days. We pray for your renewal, for your opening of our hearts and minds. For your light to break into every corner of darkness. We pray:

**All**: Stay with us, Lord.

And so we finish by saying the words of 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**.

**The Blessing**

The peace of God,

which passes all understanding,

keep your hearts and minds

in the knowledge and love of God,

and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

 **In the name of Christ. Amen.**