



AMDG
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR A,
26TH APRIL 2020



Did our hearts not burn within us ...?

OPENING PRAYER

May your people exult for ever, O God,
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption,
we may look forward in confident hope
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

Our readings this Sunday are full of the firm faith in the resurrection of Jesus, both in the teachings of St Peter and in the witness of the disciples in Emmaus.

The *First Reading* gives us the first part of Peter's rousing address to the crowd at Pentecost. Filled with the Spirit, he tells them about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and how all of this was a result of God's plan.

He quotes *Psalm 15 (16)*, our Responsorial Psalm, in which the resurrection of Jesus is fulfilled – you will not leave my soul among the dead.

The *Second Reading*, St Peter again, is a reminder that we have been ransomed by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Our faith and hope are based in the God who raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory.

The *Gospel* gives us the moving story of the two disciples who meet the risen Jesus on the way to Emmaus. They only recognize him in 'the breaking of bread.'

Like the disciples, may we find the Lord this week in whatever difficult circumstances we experience.

PSALM 15 (16)

R/. Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Preserve me O God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: “You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.”

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

As I settle to pray, I note how I feel. How does the atmosphere or situations surrounding me affect me?

I slowly read this psalm, remembering that Jesus, too, prayed it:
... in his youth, his years of ministry and maybe during his Passion.

How does this resonate with me? I speak to the Lord of this

As I pick up the refrain after each verse – *Show me, Lord the path of life* – how does my prayer become more insistent and confident?

I may pick out certain words or phrases that strengthen my trust in the God who is my refuge, my portion, my prize ...

Or perhaps I want to ask for counsel, guidance, the protection of his unfailing presence ...

I ponder the trust Jesus had in his Father: the Father who did not leave him among the dead, but raised him up.

I ask to enter into the joy of the Resurrection so as to live it more fully in my life.
And I slowly end my prayer with a ‘*Glory be ...*’

GOSPEL LUKE 24: 13–35 (abridged)

Two of the disciples were on their way to Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they talked, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, “What matters are you discussing as you walk along?” They stopped short; their faces downcast. Cleopas answered, “You must be the only person in Jerusalem who does not know these things.” “What things?” he asked. “All about Jesus of Nazareth, who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: some women from our group went to the tomb in the early morning, and they did not find the body, they saw a vision of angels who declared he was alive.”

He said, “You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?” Then starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near the village they pressed him to stay with them. While they were at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?”

They returned to Jerusalem where they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

I come to my place of prayer and give time to entering gently into God's presence. I then read this long but beautiful text slowly.

Perhaps I can imagine the scene, and walk with the disciples.

I try to enter into their feelings which may be, or may have been, mine – feelings of being aimless, lost, downcast, discouraged, disappointed, grieving ...?

Jesus walks with them. How am I aware of this in my life?

How have I been helped by him in the guise of a friend, a teacher...?

I join the disciples at table. I may give thanks for the gift of the Eucharist, for companionship, for receiving strength to return to my family, my community with a new heart.

Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that.

First Reading

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence.

Psalm

Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road
and explained the scriptures to us?

Gospel

Acts 2: 14, 22–33; Psalm 15 (16); 1 Peter 1: 17–21; Luke 24: 13–35



Arcabas (Jean Marie Piroet, 1926–2018), Emmanuel
(reproduced by kind permission of Isabelle Piroet)

They recognised him at the breaking of bread



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

JESUIT
Ministries



Prepared by St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham

LDS