

RESURRECTION

THE LESSON: LUKE 24

By thy glorious Resurrection... Good Lord, deliver us.

Jesus had humbled himself: by taking on human flesh, by leading a life of obedience, and by sacrificing himself in death on the cross to pay the price for our sin. *But Jesus did not stay dead.* God the Father exalted Jesus, raising him from the dead. Instead of being defeated by death, *Jesus defeated death itself!* Appearing to St. John, he said, “I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades” (Revelation 1:17-18).

To the disciples, this was the ultimate surprise. All their hopes had been dashed with the death of Jesus and they were lost and frightened. They didn’t understand what was going on. Even though Jesus had prophesied about what would happen, his disciples were still not expecting it. It took the wonderful surprise of the resurrection to transform them from a frightened group of confused followers to a bold team of confident and committed preachers.

But the resurrection isn’t just a far-removed historic event that made a difference to the disciples two thousand years ago. It is something that makes a difference for all believers, no matter where you are or what year it is. St. Paul sums this up in the word “first fruits”. It’s a term he uses to describe the resurrection of Jesus; a word that means that there is *more to come!* Listen to St. Paul’s explanation:

“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ... Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed... then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’... thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”
(1 Corinthians 15:22-57).

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Scripture is filled with prayers and praises in the form of poetry and songs. During this unit, try your hand at song-writing; drawing inspiration from the love God has for you, made evident in the work of Jesus Christ.

Spend some time this week writing your own song of praise inspired by the resurrection of Christ.

(Stuck? Spend some time instead reflecting on the words of this hymn penned by Robert Lowry (1826-1899): “Up from the grave he arose; with a mighty triumph o’er his foes; he arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!”

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this collect.

Almighty God, who through thine only begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: We humbly beseech thee, that as by thy special grace thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

(THE COLLECT FOR EASTER DAY, BCP PAGE 182)

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LUKE 24: **THE BEST POSSIBLE SURPRISE**

¹³That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But 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 happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.