

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 15 @ Show us, Lord, the path of Life.

Preserve me, 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 forever 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 forever.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 1 v. 17-21. Since heaven is our home with God, we are now living away from that home. God will judge us on our behaviour for we are redeemed through the death of Jesus.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

Gospel Hymn: 7 v. 4.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!

Gospel - Luke 24 v. 13-35. The early Christian community recognised Jesus in the proclamation of the Word and in the breaking of the bread. In Luke's story we hear how this happens to the disciples of Jesus.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, 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.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered '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 chief priests and 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: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, '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 passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them 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 set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.'

Address Creed. (page 7 of hymn book.)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: God reveals Himself in Christ, the Lord made Flesh. We are in touch with Him when we listen to the Scriptures and share in the breaking of the bread. United with Him, here and now, let us pray to the Father.

Reader: Let us pray for a greater knowledge and understanding of Scripture and a continued sense of awe and wonder as we celebrate Mass together. Increase our knowledge and love, Lord, of your Word and Sacraments.

Let us pray that your Church may spread the hope and joy of the Risen Christ in areas of the world affected by poverty, violence and oppression.

We pray for those who have lost hope and have no awareness of the power of the resurrection in their lives. May the Lord grant them experience of Easter joy.

Father, send your spirit of comfort on all who mourn. We pray especially for Nikita and the Pereira family, and all recently bereaved.

Let us pray for all who carry the burden of sickness daily; that they may be made whole, especially Marjorie Rousseau and Angela Wilson,

Let us pray for the departed, that through the resurrection of Jesus they may find peace in their true home in heaven. We pray especially for Jose Periera, recently departed (*pause while a candle is lit*) and Emma Emery, Gordon Goodwin, Jim Sanders, Russell Parker, Tom Cooke, Olive Partridge, John Donoghue, Sylvia Welham, Roger Keeble, Olive Calver, Lionel Bruce, Stanley Clements, Alice Curson, Fr John Bishop and May Barker, whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Mary welcomed God's word: we pray that it may take deeper root in the hearts of Christians: **Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

(SILENCE)

All: Father, increase your Easter joy within us by helping us discover the limitless richness of the scriptures. Nourish our minds with what we hear and read and strengthen us through the healing of the Bread of eternal life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.