



**A SERVICE  
OF  
HOLY COMMUNION  
(Prayer H)**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
The Second Sunday of Easter**

**St Mary & All Saints Church, Fillongley**

The Greeting

The Lord be with you    All: **and also with you.**

**Hymn: Rejoice! The Lord is King (StF 335)**

*Prayer of Preparation*

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Confession*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Absolution*

*Gloria in Excelsis*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*The Collect*

**Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our  
sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put  
away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may  
always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the  
merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and  
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and for ever. Amen**

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### *The First Reading* Acts 4: vs 32-35

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them <sup>35</sup> and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### *The Gospel Reading*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Luke Chapter 24 vs 13-25** The Walk to Emmaus

<sup>13</sup> That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles<sup>[c]</sup> from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. <sup>16</sup> But God kept them from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days." <sup>19</sup> "What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. <sup>21</sup> We had hoped he was the

Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago. <sup>22</sup> “Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. <sup>23</sup> They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! <sup>24</sup> Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.” <sup>25</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. <sup>26</sup> Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. <sup>28</sup> By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, <sup>29</sup> but they begged him, “Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.” So he went home with them. <sup>30</sup> As they sat down to eat,<sup>[d]</sup> he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, <sup>34</sup> who said, “The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.” <sup>35</sup> Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread.

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### ***The Talk***

The Road to Emmaus is one of my favourite stories following the resurrection of Jesus. It was probably early afternoon when these two people from the circle of disciples left Jerusalem. As they walk and talk, we get a sense of their utter bewilderment - they had hoped Israel would be set free from Roman domination by Jesus, but instead he had died at their hands. They struggled to reconcile the events they had witnessed with the identity of the one they loved. Everything had been taken and shaken and a

great cloud of confusion and uncertainty hovered over them.

It was as they walked away from Jerusalem towards Emmaus, and talked about these things that had happened in the last couple of days that a stranger came alongside them and walked with them. Their faces were perhaps flushed through sadness, perhaps animated in speaking and discussing these things together - especially the confusing report of the women and the empty tomb. All these things kept their focus away from the stranger and fixed on the past events. And I just wonder, how often does our own unbelief and doubt in situations, especially perhaps at this current time, keep our hearts sad, keep our minds confused and our eyes turned away from the very one who would walk with us and bring us fresh hope and joy. These two disciples on the Emmaus road had erected such a wall of hopelessness around themselves, were so trapped in their misery and fear, that they no longer had any expectation - all hope had gone.

But Jesus questions them and they start to pour out their hearts to him. Even when he gently rebukes them he starts to teach them and opens up the Word to them. The Living Word revealing the written Word. He goes through it all with them - the promises, the stories, the images - and shows them how they are all fulfilled in him. The Bible isn't a reference book, a book of examples to live up to. It is a book all about Jesus. The disciples own expectations had got confused with what God was actually doing and they had therefore not seen the deeper truths that were actually at work.

How quickly the journey to Emmaus must have passed as Jesus unwrapped the scriptures for them. Fresh hope was returning, things that had been confused were starting to make sense, things were beginning to click into place. But even as they were staring the risen Lord Jesus in the face, they were prevented from seeing him. Why was that? Because they needed to see him in the scriptures. He was not always going to be there, physically present with them, so they needed to be taught to trust his Word, not just the manifestation of his body. Peter writes in his first letter, 'Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even

though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls'.

But as they near Emmaus, he wasn't going to stop with them. It was their longing for Him to remain with them that caused Him to stay. That's true for us too. Jesus will only ever stay where there are hearts that long for Him, only then will He stay and not walk on. But now there is a shift in their relationship. He was a stranger; he went in as their guest; but now He is the one in charge, He is the master, He is the one who has taken up the bread and is breaking it.

It is the moment that he breaks bread and blesses it that their eyes were opened and they knew who he was. As soon as they saw Him and knew Him and recognized Him, He left, vanished from their view. Verse 31 says 'Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight'. What He had come to do had been accomplished. This wasn't about recognition of his features - they had come to fully recognize Jesus in all his significance as the Messiah, the Son of God - their risen Lord! He disappeared because no longer was their fellowship with him dependent on their ability to see him.

This Road to Emmaus is a picture of our walk, of our journey of faith. Jesus as a stranger, walks alongside us but we don't know, don't have the revelation of who he is. Then he becomes a guest and the Living Word makes known the written word and it burns us, pierces us, gives us a passion for God and the things of God, and then revelation comes and no longer is Jesus a stranger or a guest but he is Lord and Master.

These stories become so familiar to us we can pass them by without really thinking about the road we are on ourselves. Are we walking with the Lord and don't know it? Is he a stranger to us? Or is he a guest? Come be with us today Lord - perhaps Sunday for an hour - but don't overstay your welcome. Or is he Lord and Master? If that is the case then that turns our world upside down...the things we hold dear, turned upside down so it is

him that takes first place. Just like these two travellers, we will want others too, to know the good news of the risen Jesus - that is why we want to pray for Fillongley, to bless her with the knowledge of Jesus, to have her eyes opened to Him.

We also need to pray for ourselves - that we will see the new things God is preparing and doing. These two travellers were still dealing with the death of Jesus and couldn't see him risen in front of their eyes. As we have gone through and are still going through this time of difficulty, when we too face fear, grief, and trauma, we need to ask God - what are you wanting to prepare us for so we are ready as we come out from this time.

There will be changes as we emerge from this lockdown and we need to make sure that we are following his leading. Isaiah 43: 19 says, ' See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? He doesn't want us to stay captive to the past and the old way of doing things but to remember that new wine needs new wineskins. May we trust God to lead us forward. Amen.

**Hymn: Put peace into each other's hands (StF 712)**

*The Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the**

**Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### ***The Prayers of Intercession***

*And at the end*

**Merciful Father,  
Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### ***The Liturgy of Holy Communion***

*The Peace*

*The minister introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence*

*The minister says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Hymn: Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart (StF 477)**

*The Communion Prayer*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father,  
Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.  
When we turned away  
you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.

**All. You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**All. He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**All. Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**All. Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is  
shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All. As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**All. Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

*Breaking of the Bread*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All. Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*The minister invites the people to receive communion*

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*If you prefer not to take Communion this prayer may be said:*

***Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen***

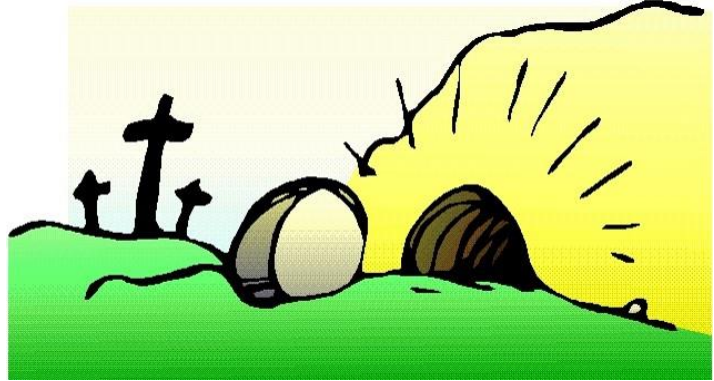
*Prayer after Communion*

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## *The Blessing*

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and  
gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;

and the blessing .....



**HYMN: And can it be. (StF 345)**

## *The Dismissal*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**