A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER

*Sunday, April 26, 2020*

OPENING Ps 43.3

Send out Your light and Your truth that they may lead us,

**And bring us to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling.**

THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

 **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us pray:

Be present, Spirit of God,

Within us, your dwelling place and home--

That this house may be one where

All darkness is penetrated by your light,

all troubles calmed by your peace,

all evil redeemed by your love,

all pain transformed in your suffering,

and all dying glorified in your risen life. **Amen**.

 From *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

SONG

**Laudate, omnes gentes. Laudate Dominum!**

**Sing praises, all ye people. Sing praises to the Lord!**

PSALM 126

When You restored our fortunes, **we were like those who dream**.

Then were our mouths filled with laughter, **our tongues with shouts of joy.**

Then did all those around us say that You have done great things for us.

**You have done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.**

Restore us again, Lord; **let those who sow in tears, reap with songs of joy.**

Let those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,

**return rejoicing at the harvest, carrying the sheaves.**

QUIET REFLECTION

PRAYER

We give You thanks, Almighty God,

 for all Your gifts and graces to us this day:

For the splendor of the whole creation and the beauty of this world;

for the wonder of life, and the mystery of love;

for the blessings of family and friends,

 and the loving care that surrounds us on every side.

We are grateful for this day’s work,

For the things that demanded our best, and things that delighted us;

and for disappointments and failures that lead us to depend on You truly.

**We thank You, O Lord.**

Stay with us, Lord, for evening is at hand

and the day is past.

Be our light in the darkness we pray, and in Your great mercy,

defend us from all perils and dangers of this night.

**Hear us, O Lord.**

READING 1 Peter 1:17-23

**17**And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as sojourners. **18**For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. **19**It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. **20**God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.

**21**Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

**22**You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1%3A17-23&version=NLT#fen-NLT-30357a)] Love each other deeply with all your heart.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+1%3A17-23&version=NLT#fen-NLT-30357b)]

**23**For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

QUIET REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us remember that as we pray, we kneel alongside Jesus Christ, in the presence of God,

with the help of the Spirit.

So let us bring to mind now those people who are in need of our prayers:

those who are ill, and those who are dying;

those who feel anxious or depressed;

those who feel alone or sad, or exhausted;

those who are stressed and pressured by work or schoolwork;

those who are hungry or homeless; those who do not feel safe in their homes;

those whose relationships are in distress;

those who are looking for work; and those who are over-worked.

In silence now, let us make our own specific prayers for those on our hearts and minds today.

O God of peace, You have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength. By the might of Your Spirit lift us, we pray, to Your presence, where we may be still and know that You are God; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

 Separated by distance but gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, and our friends the Sisters of St. Helena have simplified for us:

**Our loving God in heaven, holy is your Name.**

**May your reign 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

SONG

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.**

**You alone, O God, are holy.**

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. *Alleluia!***

GOSPEL READING Luke 24:13-35

**13**That same day two of Jesus’ followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. **14**As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. **15**As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. **16**But God kept them from recognizing him.

**17**He asked them, “What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?”

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. **18**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.”

**19**“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. **20**But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. **21**We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

**22**“Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. **23**They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! **24**Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.”

**25**Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. **26**Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” **27**Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

**28**By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, **29**but they begged him, “Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.” So he went home with them. **30**As they sat down to eat,he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. **31**Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

**32**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?” **33**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, **34**who said, “The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter.”**35**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.

QUIET REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We are not alone. We live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:**

 **Who has created and is creating,**

 **Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,**

 **To reconcile us and make us new,**

 **Who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church:**

 **To celebrate God’s presence,**

 **To love and serve neighbors,**

**To seek justice and resist evil.**

**To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**

**our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

SONG

**My peace I leave you, My peace I give you—trouble not your hearts.**

**My peace I leave you, My peace I give you—be not afraid.**

CLOSING BLESSING

On our hearts and on our homes,

**The blessing of God.**

In our work and in our resting,

**The peace of God.**

In our life and our believing,

**The love of God.**

At our end and new beginning,

**The arms of God to welcome us and bring us home. Amen.**

*Resources used for the language of this service include:*

Venite: A Book of Daily Prayer by Robert Benson

A New Zealand Prayer Book

New Living Translation of the Holy Bible

 Oremus III, Lutheran Student Movement

Iona Abbey Worship Book