



Contemplative Prayer Form

Third Sunday of Easter - Year A

The Liturgy Letter

Note: This is for individual or small group use. It is intended to be a form of contemplative “Lectio Divina” based on the scripture readings for the week and the themes of the liturgical season. Repetition, silence, and intercession are utilized to allow space for focus over a short or long period of time. It may be helpful to use your fingers to count the number of scripture phrases you utter during the times of repetition. The Scripture prayer section is structured for easy use with Anglican Prayer Beads for those who might find a tactile expression to be helpful (✚ = Cross ● = Invitatory bead ◇ = Cruciform bead ● = Weeks bead).

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35 (NIV)

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

“What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And

beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Scripture Prayer:

✝ Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

☪ O God, open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold Christ in all his redeeming work. Amen.

◇ What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?
-Psalm 116:12

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
-Psalm 116:13

◇ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
-Psalm 116:14

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.
-Psalm 116:15

◇ Truly I am your servant, Lord; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains.
-Psalm 116:16

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

I will...call on the name of the Lord.
-Psalm 116:17

◇ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord—in your midst, Jerusalem.
-Psalm 116:18-19a

- **Repeat Seven Times:**

Praise the Lord.

-Psalm 116:19b

◇ Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.
-1 Peter 1:22

✿ *The Lord's Prayer*

✙ Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory over death through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Silence + Intercessions

Risen Lord, gather all the nations into your care and come again quickly to rule over your people.

Keep us steady in faith and lead us to trust in you...

Come, Holy Spirit, and breathe new life. Heal our wounded souls and misshaped desires...

Free us from anxiety and self-righteousness...

Guide your Church in this place and around the world...

We pray for the leaders of the nations...

Father, support those who are going through trials...

For the oppressed and lonely...

For families and friends, for all who have asked for our prayers and who pray for us...

For our country, our region (village, town...), that the Christians there may be witnesses to your life and unity...

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.