

A Devotion for the week of Easter 3

This service is written for Stretton Park in Maffra and Laurina Lodge in Heyfield, but with the intention of being available for use in other retirement villages and nursing homes. This service can be used as a script or distributed to those who are interested for their private use.

INTRODUCTION

This week we look at the way the events of Easter Sunday evening gave hope to the disciples.

HYMN No. 13 - The king of love my shepherd is

You can read the words to yourself, or out loud. If you remember the tune well enough you can sing it yourself. You can, of course sing just the first, or the first and last verses.

The Psalm for the day is Psalm 116, verse 1 to 7. I love the Lord because He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy. Because He turned His ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live. The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me; I was overcome by trouble and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the Lord: O Lord, save me!" The Lord is gracious and righteous, our Lord is full of compassion. The Lord protects the simple-hearted, when I was in great need He saved me. Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you.

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord God that you care for us and protect us. Thank you that you listen to us when we pray, and when we are troubled, you bring us rest. Thank you for the forgiveness you give when we sincerely ask, for those things that are our fault. We ask too, that you ease the worries of our hearts for those things that are not of our making, and help us to be at peace. In Jesus name, Amen

HYMN No. 6 - Jesus lover of my soul

BIBLE READING

Our Bible reading this week is Luke 24 : 13 - 35. In brief, this is what it says:

On the Sunday evening after Jesus was killed, while the apostles met behind locked doors, two of the disciples walked home on the road to Emmaus. On their way, a man joined them and asked why they were sad, so they told him about Jesus' death. This man then told them about how Jesus life and death fulfilled the Old Testament Scriptures. When they arrived at their home they invited him in to tea, and when he broke the bread for them they recognised him as Jesus and hurried back to tell the other disciples about what had happened.

REFLECTION

Those two disciples must have been so sad. They had hoped for so much, and now all their hope was gone. In their grief, they went home. They probably felt like curling up in a corner and giving up, but even then, at the worst of times, Jesus met them. He bought them hope. He did not just tell them to buck up, but He explained why they should be hopeful. He told them about the old prophecies, what they meant, and how they told about His life and ministry. Then later He broke bread with them and the hope that Jesus had given them on the road became a reality. Jesus had come again to be with them. This story tells us that Jesus meets us where we are, even if we feel sad, alone and without hope. God has not promised to make our lives trouble free. Things go smoothly at times, but at other

times there are problems and worries in our lives. Jesus is always with us, especially in the challenging times. In these challenging times He is only a prayer away, ever ready to guide, help and comfort, just as He did for those two disciples on their way home to Emmaus.

HYMN No.16 - To God be the glory, great things He has done

PRAYER

God our Father, we pray in thanks for the hope and comfort we receive from you and from the other who work to help us. Help us, O God to take comfort and strength from your love and presence which is always with us. We pray for others who are sick and we pray for comfort for those who are lonely. Strengthen us to meet the challenges each day brings, and help us to what we can to help others in their challenges. May the hope and positive attitude we can show, help others to see that there is always hope, there can always be small joys, and there can always be your love to guide us, through even the darkest of times. And we pray together,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

For ever and ever, AMEN

HYMN No 10 - Praise to the Lord, the almighty, the king of creation.

The BLESSING

May the presence of the risen Lord Jesus comfort you, inspire you and give you hope.

And may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always, Amen