

57CV

Thought for the Day – Easter

by

Didymus

Evensong readings:-

Luke ch.24, vv13-35 as set.

John ch.20, vv1-15, (in place of OT)

These two readings which must be familiar to us, are attached, using the KJV translation, which is beautiful if not quite so clear as later translations.

Reading the daily papers is helpful in guiding prayer to those whose lives are afflicted: *“to preach good news to the poor, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.* There is no shortage of subjects - Burma, the Uighur people, the violence of the Middle East, totalitarianism, dictatorships, poverty, enslavement, disease, simply the savage cruelty of one human to another. The glory of God's Creation doesn't sell a lot of newspapers. Sadly.



There is much to cause anger, unfortunately, and recently I saw the report of a two-year old child who was abandoned and left to starve by her young mother who went off partying. The sight of this beautiful child, treated in a way that defies description, makes one weep, and seeth with anger. Children may grow up to be contrary or difficult at times, but if we do not treasure them as the most precious of jewels, we have lost the plot.

Anger is not inappropriate at Easter when we consider the gratuitous cruelty described in the Gospels that was suffered by our Lord. What would he have done in this particular case? It was surely a more common experience 2000 year ago. One of the reasons for his quiet acceptance of death on the Cross was to atone for the sinful state of humankind. Whether one believes Genesis or Darwin, humankind is mortal, susceptible, and likely to follow evil, and is insignificant by comparison with our Creator. Jesus died for feckless young mothers, too. As he pointed out, it is not what goes into the body that brings evil, for that goes out; it is what is in the soul of human beings which allows evil to flourish.

“We come from God, we belong to God, and to God we will return” is a saying my Rector told me years ago. In his death and Resurrection, Jesus showed us the way back to God. His death was not intended to be a memorial, but an inspiration. If we believe, he will be with us, spiritually at our side, as we make our stumbling footsteps in faith.

Easter is a time of renewed life, and we can see around us, Cornwall emerging from its winter bath into the glory of Spring, a sight that is precious to us. We give thanks for this gift, one of so many, along with our prayer for those in need.

A VERY HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE.



(Caravaggio)

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

And he said unto them, *What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?* And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, *Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?*

And he said unto them, *What things?* And they said unto him, *Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.*

But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

Then he said unto them, *O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?* And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, *Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.* And he went in to tarry with them.

And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

And they said one to another, *Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?* And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them; Saying, *The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.*

And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

The Gospel of John ch.20

The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, *They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.*

Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

And they say unto her, *Woman, why weepest thou?* She saith unto them, *Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.* And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

Jesus saith unto her, *Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?* She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, *Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.*

Jesus saith unto her, *Mary.* She turned herself, and saith unto him, *Rabboni;* which is to say, Master.

