

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, HANOVER, PA

Rev. E. Robert Burkhart, Senior Pastor

Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

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Prayer of the Day

Leader: O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong.: **Amen.**

The Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the

road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Prayers of the People

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their need.

(A brief silence.)

Leader: We pray for the church. Remove all that hinders us from sharing your love. Raise up faithful preachers and teachers to lead your people. Heal our divisions. Unite us at your table. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

Leader: For the earth. Protect animals whose environments are endangered. Bring bountiful sunshine and sufficient rainfall for fields, pastures, and orchards. Bless those whose labors bring food to our tables. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

Leader: For the nations. Give all leaders wisdom and courage to work for the common good. Strengthen disaster relief workers, peacemakers, and all whose contributions to society go unnoticed. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

Leader: For those in need. Draw near to those who have lost hope. Provide food for the hungry and shelter for those who need safe housing. Comfort the grieving and heal the sick. We pray especially for all those we lift before you now in the earnest prayers of our hearts. (P A U S E) Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

Leader: For this assembly. Empower our ministries of outreach and hospitality. Strengthen the newly baptized and those who mentor them. Bless those who set the table for the holy meal. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Leader: With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith. Bring us with them to the fullness of your glory with all your saints. Lord, in your mercy,

Cong.: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Cong.: Amen.