

Leigh Memorial – 23rd April 2023 - Easter 3a

Welcome

Liz

Acknowledgment Liz

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

Call to Worship:

God heard my voice and my prayers when I was in the depth of distress and despair.

Praise the Lord!

What shall I return to the Lord for all this goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Lighting Of The Christ Candle

Liz

The light of Christ brings the light & love of God into the whole of creation.

Opening Song

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Geoff

Readings

Mario

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 – Peter Addresses the Crowd

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

The First Converts

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Prayer of Confession

Risen Lord Jesus, what is it that keeps us from recognising you?

When we are so full of ourselves, it is all too easy to block you right out of our lives.

Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture that obscures the signs pointing to you.

Perhaps we are guilty of being slow of heart when we don't recognise you in our neighbour, or in the form of the poor or the dispossessed.

Our eyes and ears have become so crammed with the sights and sounds of living that we simply fail to see you or to recognise your voice.

Risen Lord Jesus, help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders our awareness of your presence with us. Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing presence, so that, like those travellers on the road to Emmaus, we too, hasten to share this great good news with others Amen.

Assurance

We recognise God's great love for the world revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus...who came into the world not to condemn it but to save it. Those who believe in him are not condemned. (based on John 3:17,18)

Thanks be to God!

Song

Luke 24:13-35 – The Walk to Emmaus

Mario

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then 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?' He 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and 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. Some 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.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They 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?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Response

O God our nurturer, may your word live in us.

And colour our living. Amen!

Mario

Reflection

Song

Offering and Announcements

Liz

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Song

Benediction

May the presence of the risen Christ be with you, the love and mercy of God be within you and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you today and always.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord, this day and forevermore. Amen.