

OCTOBER 2024 PRAYER SERVICE

TIME FOR SCRIPTURE:

A complementary scripture passage for Luke 24:15-16, which describes Jesus joining the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, can be found in Psalm 34:18. This Psalm verse resonates with the emotional state of the disciples, who were filled with sadness and confusion after the crucifixion of Jesus.

The connection between these passages highlights the theme of divine companionship during times of distress. Just as the Lord draws near to those who are suffering, Jesus approaches the disciples, walking alongside them and engaging in conversation, even when they do not recognize Him. This reflects the comforting presence of God in moments of despair, offering hope and understanding.

Additionally, the experience of the disciples on the road to Emmaus culminates in their recognition of Jesus during the breaking of bread, which can be seen as a fulfillment of the promise that God is with His people, especially in their moments of need. This theme of recognition and revelation is central to both the Psalm and the Gospel passage, emphasizing the transformative power of encountering the Lord in times of sorrow.

Thus, Psalm 34:18 serves as a fitting complement to Luke 24:15-16, reinforcing the message of God's nearness and support in difficult times.

Luke 24:15-16

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

Psalm 34:18

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION:

SHARED PRAYER ON SCRIPTURAL TEXT:

The intent is reflection in the form of a prayer, not discussion.

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

- Pass card or cross, so people can pass gracefully and the team knows when the prayer is complete.
- The team should respond at the end of each person's turn, for example, "Lord, hear our prayer".

LITURGICAL PRAYER:

A complementary Psalm for Luke 24:15-16, which describes the encounter of Jesus with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, can be found in Psalm 123. This Psalm expresses a longing for God's mercy and guidance, resonating with the theme of seeking the Lord's presence, much like the disciples sought understanding and companionship on their journey.

In Psalm 123, the faithful lift their eyes to the Lord, awaiting His response and help, which parallels the disciples' experience of having their eyes opened to recognize Jesus as He walked with them. The Psalm reflects a deep yearning for divine intervention and clarity, similar to the disciples' desire for Jesus to stay with them as they sought to understand the events surrounding His resurrection.

Additionally, the imagery of looking to the Lord in Psalm 123 can be seen as a metaphor for the disciples' spiritual journey from confusion to enlightenment, culminating in their recognition of Jesus during the breaking of bread. This connection emphasizes the importance of divine guidance and revelation in understanding Scripture and recognizing Christ's presence in one's life.

Thus, Psalm 123 serves as a fitting complement to the narrative in Luke 24:15-16, highlighting themes of hope, recognition, and the search for God's presence.

Psalm 123

Response: To you I raise my eyes, to you enthroned in heaven.

*Yes, like the eyes of servants on the hand of their masters,
Like the eyes of a maid on the hand of her mistress,
So our eyes are on the Lord our God,
till we are shown favor.*

Response: To you I raise my eyes, to you enthroned in heaven.

*Show us favor, Lord, show us favor,
for we have our fill of contempt.*

Response: To you I raise my eyes, to you enthroned in heaven.

*Our souls are more than sated
with mockery from the insolent,
with contempt from the arrogant.*

CONCLUSION OF PRAYER TIME:

This prayer encapsulates the essence of the passages, emphasizing the need for God's presence and comfort during difficult times, while also reflecting the disciples' experience of recognizing Jesus in the breaking of bread.

All: Heavenly Father, as the two disciples walked in sadness on the road to Emmaus, may we too recognize Your presence in our lives, especially in moments of despair. Just as You drew near to them, we ask that You come close to our broken hearts and crushed spirits, as promised in Psalm 34:18. Help us to see Your hand guiding us through our struggles, and grant us the grace to invite You to stay with us, as the disciples did, for we know that with You, our journey is filled with hope and light.

In our times of need, may we lift our eyes to You, as expressed in Psalm 123, seeking Your mercy and guidance. Let us trust in Your unfailing love and find solace in Your embrace. May our hearts burn within us as we recognize Your voice in the Scriptures and in our daily lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEEP POOLING:

This is a time to share on more serious matters or when the input of the group is requested. This will not necessarily happen at all meetings.

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS:

We join teams in order to enlist the help of others in growing closer to God. The “endeavors” are practices which we voluntarily assume. They have been found to be a means of drawing us closer as a couple and in furthering our spiritual growth. By sharing on the endeavors at the team meeting we seek help and encouragement from our teammates in our journey.