

Draw Near to Us, O Lord
A meditative prayer on Luke 24:13-35
D'Esta love

This meditation is an example of *Lectio Divina* (praying the scriptures). It allows the scripture to be read slowly, with a pause to repeat and meditate on a particular portion of the reading. There is then a prompting to prayer before continuing the reading of the passage. This particular meditation has the words of a familiar hymn inserted as a refrain to conclude each prayer. The meditation was written with a small group in mind but can be adapted for individual meditation and prayer. Instructions: The leader should ask the group to mention any prayer concerns or requests which individuals would like to have remembered in prayer. As the group exercise progresses, members of the groups are free to offer any of these requests as they seem appropriate in the periods of individual prayer.

Instructions: The leader might begin by asking the group to mention any prayer concerns or requests that individuals would like to have remembered in prayer. Members of the group should be encouraged to offer any of these requests as they think appropriate as the meditation progresses.

The leader reads scripture selections, followed by a phrase which is to be repeated several times to provide opportunity for meditation. After a brief silence, the leader or a designated person will read the opening line for prayer (bold type) and finish the sentence with any expression of prayer he or she wishes. There will then be a pause while other members of the group offer their own expressions of prayer using the same opening line or a similar expression. After everyone who wishes has had opportunity to pray, the group will read the refrain in unison. The leader will then read the next scripture selection and the process will repeat itself.

Reading: 24:13-15

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

Jesus himself drew near. Jesus himself drew near. Jesus drew near. Jesus drew near.

Prayer: **Draw near to us, Lord Jesus, for we. . .**

Refrain in unison: **We need you every hour**
Come quickly and abide or life is vain.

Reading: 24:16-17

But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is the conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad."

And they stood still, looking sad. They stood still, looking sad. They stood still, looking sad.

Prayer: **Lord Jesus, our hearts are sad because. . .**

Refrain in unison: **We need you every hour
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.**

Reading: 24:18-21a

Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.

We had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel. We had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel. The one to redeem Israel. We had hoped.

Prayer: **Lord Jesus, our redeemer, we. . .**

Refrain in Unison: **We need you every hour
Come quickly and abide or life is vain.**

Reading: 24:21b-24

Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even 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 him they did not see."

Him they did not see. Him they did not see. They did not see. They did not see.

Prayer: **Lord Jesus, we pray for those who do not see. . .**

Refrain in unison: **We need you every hour
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.**

Reading: 24:25-27

And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

The things concerning himself. The things concerning himself. The things concerning himself.

Prayer: **Lord Jesus, teach us. . .**

Refrain in unison: **We need you every hour
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.**

Reading: 24:28-29a

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent."

Stay with us, for the day is far spent. The day is far spent, stay with us. Stay with us. Stay with us.

Prayer: **We invite you, Lord, to. . .**

Refrain in unison: **We need you every hour
Come quickly and abide or life is vain.**

Reading: 24:29b-30

So he went to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them.

He blessed it and gave it to them. He gave it to them. He gave to them. He gave to them.

Prayer: **Give us this day, O Lord. . .**

Refrain in unison: **We need you every hour
Come quickly and abide or life is vain.**

Reading: 24:31

And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight.

Their eyes were opened. Their eyes were opened. Their eyes were opened.

Prayer: **Open our eyes that we may. . .**

Refrain in unison: **We need you every hour
Come quickly and abide or life is vain.**

Reading: 24:32

They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn with us, while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?"

Did not our hearts within us burn? Did not our hearts within us burn? Did not our hearts within us burn?

Prayer: **Cause our hearts to burn within us so that we may. . .**

Refrain in unison: **We need you every hour
Come quickly and abide or life is vain.**

Reading: 24:33-35

And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Lord has risen indeed. The Lord has risen. The Lord has risen. The Lord has risen indeed.

Pray, any that apply: **Oh, risen Lord, we/I give you. . .
Oh, risen Lord, we/I ask. . .
Oh, risen Lord, we/I thank you. . .
Oh, risen Lord, we/I praise you. . .**

Refrain in unison: **Oh, bless me now my savior, I come to thee. I come to thee.**