

FEBRUARY 2025 PRAYER SERVICE

Prayer Service for Chapter 6 of “On the Road to Emmaus” Study Topic

The Chapter focuses on Luke 24:28-29

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TIME FOR SCRIPTURE:

In **Luke 24:28-29**, the narrative describes an encounter between Jesus and two of His disciples as they journey to the village of Emmaus after His resurrection. As they approach the village, Jesus appears to continue on His way, but the disciples urge Him to stay with them, saying, ***“Stay with us because it is towards evening, and the day is now far spent.”*** This moment highlights the disciples' desire for companionship and understanding as they are still grappling with the events of Jesus' crucifixion and the reports of His resurrection. Their invitation reflects a longing for the presence of Jesus, which is a central theme in the post-resurrection appearances, emphasizing the importance of fellowship and the revelation of Christ in the breaking of bread.

A scripture passage that complements **Luke 24:28-29** is **Revelation 3:20**, which states, ***“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me.”*** This verse resonates with the invitation theme and the desire for communion found in **Luke 24:28-29**, where the disciples invite Jesus to stay with them. Both passages emphasize the importance of welcoming Jesus into one's life and the intimate fellowship that follows such an invitation. The act of dining together symbolizes a deep relationship and communion, reflecting the essence of Christian hospitality and the call to recognize Christ's presence in everyday life.

Luke 24:28-29

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me.

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 Psalm that complements **Luke 24:28-29** is **Psalm 23**, particularly verses 1-3, which state: ***“The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures, he makes me lie down; to still waters, he leads me. He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.”*** This psalm beautifully reflects the themes of guidance, companionship, and comfort, paralleling the disciples' desire for Jesus to stay with them as they journey through their uncertainty and confusion after His resurrection.

In both passages, there is a profound sense of seeking and finding solace in the presence of the Lord. Just as the disciples invite Jesus to remain with them, **Psalm 23** illustrates the Lord's role as a shepherd who leads and cares for His flock, providing peace and restoration along life's journey.

Psalm 23:1-6

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.

*In green pastures he makes me lie down;
to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul.
He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name.*

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.*

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.

*You set a table before me in front of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.*

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.

*Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of the Lord for endless days.*

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.

CONCLUSION OF PRAYER TIME:

The passages from **Luke 24:28-29**, **Revelation 3:20**, and **Psalm 23** each convey **profound themes** related to **God’s presence, invitation, and the relationship between God and humanity.**

All: *Heavenly Father, In the quiet moments of our lives, we recognize Your gentle presence, standing at the door of our hearts, waiting for our invitation. Just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus urged Jesus to stay with them, we too long for Your companionship in our journey. We echo their words, "Stay with us, because it is towards evening, and the day is now far spent" (Luke 24:29). May we always seek Your presence, especially in times of uncertainty and doubt.*

Lord, we invite You into our lives, knowing that when we open the door to You, You come in and share in our joys and sorrows. As You promised, "If anyone hears my voice and

opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). Help us to be attentive to Your voice, to recognize Your call amidst the noise of the world, and to respond with open hearts.

We are reminded of Your loving guidance in Psalm 23, where You lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack" (Psalm 23:1). May we find comfort in knowing that You are with us, guiding us along the right paths and providing for our every need.

As we gather in fellowship, may our hearts be united in love and gratitude for the gift of Your presence. Teach us to extend this invitation of fellowship to others, reflecting Your love and light in our communities.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Shepherd and Savior.

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.