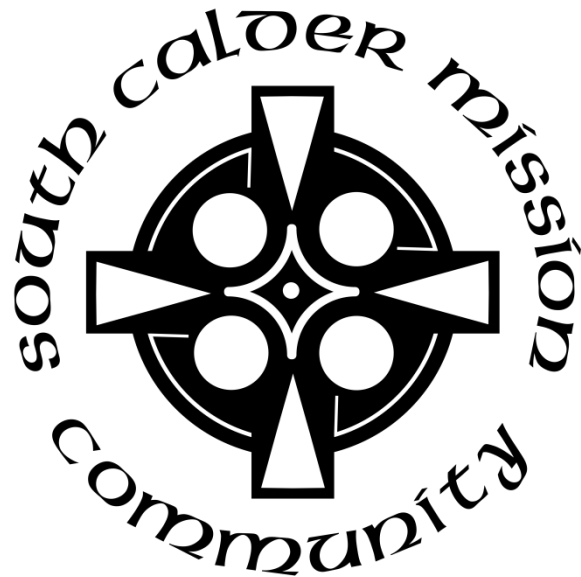


*into his courts  
with praise...*



A Service of the Word  
for  
Sunday 19 April 2026  
Third of Easter.

## A Service of the Word for Sunday morning

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### INTRODUCTION

*“God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom  
you crucified.”*

*Acts 2:36.*



### THE CONFESSION

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.  
Though we have grieved him, yet he will heal us if we confess our  
sins in penitence and faith.

**Almighty God,  
I confess that I have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed;  
I have not loved you with all my heart;  
I have not loved my neighbours as myself.  
Have mercy upon me,  
cleanse me from my sins,  
and help me to overcome my faults,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Receive God's forgiveness*

May the Father forgive us  
By the death of His Son  
And strengthen us  
To live in the power of the Spirit  
All our days. **Amen.**

### **PRAISE**

O Lord, open my lips...  
**and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
Give me the joy of your saving help...  
**and sustain me with your life-giving Spirit.**

### **THE COLLECT**

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**Amen.**

*Suggested hymn to sing or read **Jesus is Lord.***

### **THE WORD OF GOD.**

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41.**

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.'

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.

### **Psalm 116:1-3, 10-end.**

I love the Lord,  
for he has heard the voice of my supplication; ♦  
because he inclined his ear to me  
on the day I called to him.  
The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pains of hell took hold of me; ♦  
by grief and sorrow was I held.  
Then I called upon the name of the Lord: ♦  
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'  
How shall I repay the Lord ♦  
for all the benefits he has given to me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation ♦  
and call upon the name of the Lord.  
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦  
in the presence of all his people.  
Precious in the sight of the Lord ♦  
is the death of his faithful servants.  
O Lord, I am your servant, ♦  
your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.  
I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving ♦  
and call upon the name of the Lord.  
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦  
in the presence of all his people,  
In the courts of the house of the Lord, ♦  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Alleluia.

### **1 Peter 1:17-23.**

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

*Suggested hymn to sing or read **Brother, sister, let me serve you.***

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 24:13-35.**

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.

## **REFLECTION – Journeys – travelling with Jesus.**

It's 2 weeks now since Easter Day, but we're still in the Easter season. We've been through the journey of the Christian year from Advent Sunday to Christmas, and followed the last 3 years of Jesus' life, his public ministry, including his trial, death and resurrection. Now we're waiting for Ascension and Pentecost before we can move on into the next part of the Christian story. So what happens now? At the very end of the gospels, we have the stories of the witnesses to the Resurrection of Jesus, though they are referred to in the epistles too. We need this part of the story to assure us that the Resurrection has actually happened, and that there was further proof that Jesus really was alive, recognisable but somehow different.

I love these stories of the post resurrection appearances of Jesus. They make me feel excited at the thought of meeting Jesus like that. I think the gospel reading about the disciples travelling to Emmaus, going home after Passover, and after Jesus' death, is my favourite one.

It was a journey of about 7 miles, plenty of time to talk over what had happened. They were sad and down hearted. It all seemed to have ended so tragically, everything had gone wrong. And earlier that day there were reports that Jesus' tomb was empty, no body! The women who had gone there expecting to anoint Jesus' body came back with a story about seeing angels telling them that he, Jesus, was alive!

The disciples were very confused, all at sea, they didn't know what to think. But one thing they did know for certain was that Jesus had died on the cross. The dream had ended. As these two disciples, followers of Jesus, walked along, Jesus himself, risen from the dead, drew near and walked alongside them. Why didn't they recognise him? We don't know for sure. They certainly weren't expecting to see him. Despite what they'd heard, they knew when people died that was it, they didn't come back again. Or perhaps in some way they were prevented from recognising him. Perhaps they needed to be taught, from the scriptures (our Old Testament) the truth about Jesus, the Messiah, who had to suffer and die before entering his glory, before they could realise who he really was. What a wonderful moment, when he stayed with them and broke the bread, and recognition dawned – it's Jesus, it's really him, he's alive and there! And at that moment, he's gone.

Excitedly, they travel back (I imagine them walking fast, bursting into running some of the time) to tell the others in Jerusalem, the wonderful, glorious truth. Jesus is truly alive, risen from the dead, they have seen him with their own eyes! The story of a journey with Jesus.

The bible is full of stories about journeys. Journeys people were called to by and with God. Noah, ridiculed for building the Ark, had a sailing voyage. Abraham was called by God to leave Ur and be led by God to the promised land. Jacob goes on a journey and finds a wife – or 2 as it turns out! Joseph has many mishaps, but his journey to Egypt turns out to be the saving of his family, and the people of Israel, from a terrible famine.

In the New Testament, Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem (a journey while heavily pregnant too!) Jesus is born there, then they have to flee to Egypt, another journey as refugees. Then in Acts we follow Paul, struck down in the middle of a journey on the road to Damascus, and then on his missionary journeys spreading the gospel and establishing churches.

All of these journeys were undertaken in response to God's prompting. All the travellers must have had great faith and trust in God to start off in the first place. It must have been frightening a lot of the time. It must have seemed like madness sometimes. Had they really been called to do this by God or had they imagined it? Where would it all end? But they kept putting their faith and trust in him and carried on.

Our lives can be looked on as journeys, whether we travel physically or live out our lives in one place. I wonder if you've ever had to draw your life or faith journey as part of a group course or study? You can draw it as a map (like Pilgrim's Progress) or as a graph with peaks for high points and troughs for low points of your life. Then you can go through it again and think about what was happening at each point, noting your feelings, and how you felt in your spiritual life too.

Most people have had good times and more difficult times in their lives, and most, like me, have found that growth in faith and spiritual life has happened more often during or following the difficult times.

Talking about why this should be in one group I was in, we came to the conclusion that in the difficult times when the going is hard, you can feel too stretched, and that you've come to the end of your resources. It can feel as if you're on your own with no one to help. It's at times like this that we have to lean on Jesus and really rely on him. It can concentrate your mind on what really matters to you. When we have nothing left and there's nowhere else to go, we can say 'I've done what I can, Lord, now **you** take this and sort it out – whatever, however you will.'

It takes faith and trust to do this. It's worth looking up some of the promises in the bible to hang on to when life is tough, and we don't feel God is near or that he cares about us. These promises remain true **however** we're feeling. It's often only as we look back that we can see that God was with us, holding us in his loving arms, walking with us, willing us on, and how he used that difficult time to grow our faith, or help someone else. To see how it fitted in to our life's pattern, our life's journey, even perhaps into God's greater purposes.

We're not called to take great leaps of faith or take on impossible looking journeys all in one go – just to take steps of faith one at a time. And we have each other, companions on the journey.

Sheila Falkner.

*Suggested hymn to sing or read **Through all the changing scenes of life.***

### THE CREED

All I believe in God the Father,  
whose loving care is the pattern for family life.

I believe in Jesus, the Son of God,  
who lives in my heart through faith,  
and fills me with his love.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens me with power from on high.

I believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### THE PRAYERS

*A time of quiet prayer for*

- *The universal Church - Bishops, synods and all leaders church*
- *The leaders of the nations*
- *The natural world and the resources of the earth*

**Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace.**

**Look upon our divided world  
to be with those who are victims of violence.**

**We pray for the people of Ukraine  
and all who have been subjected to the cruelty of others.**

**Help us to know the gift of your peace  
in the power of your Spirit and  
we ask you to soften the hearts  
of those who can stop the fighting.**

**Creator God, we ask for your aid as your children of light  
living in the darkness of our world.**

**Amen.**

*Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group.*

*Finishing with the South Calder Mission Community prayer...*

**Heavenly Father we thank you for the life of your Church  
in this place, and in all the villages of the South Calder  
Mission Community;**

**for all who have served and worshipped you in years gone by,  
for all who make up your family in our churches today,  
for the faith we have in common, and for the people and  
traditions which make each church unique.**

**By your Spirit, guide and equip us,  
that together we might find new ways  
to reach out to our local community,  
to show your love to our neighbours,  
and to encourage them  
to follow the Lord Jesus in their lives.**

**Father, we offer ourselves to your service,  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
And in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*and the Lord's prayer...*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE CONCLUSION

*Suggested hymn to sing or read **There is a redeemer.***

*The following prayer is said*

**Be with me, Lord, as I finish my prayer today.  
May my lips always speak the truth;  
may my eyes which have read your word  
see only what is good;  
and may my life as well as my worship  
be always pleasing in your sight,  
for the glory of your name. Amen.**

And now may the Lord who brought us to birth by his Spirit,  
strengthen us for the Christian life.

May the Lord who provides for all our needs  
sustain us day by day.

May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care,  
send us out to live and work for others.

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**

So now may I go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Links for the hymns

Jesus is Lord.

<https://youtu.be/8HHYt40whHQ>

Brother, sister, let me serve you.

<https://youtu.be/EQaOErUUjm8>

Through all the changing scenes of life.

<https://youtu.be/yBkorDtz1nU>

There is a redeemer.

<https://youtu.be/5SG3a7PTSFE>