

RAISE
A
HALLE
LUJAH

WEEK THREE

EASTER
PACKAGE

RAISE A HALLE LUJAH DAY AND SUNDAY GOSPEL

[26 April 2020] Sunday Gospel - Luke 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

RAISE A HALLE LUJAH DAY AE NDP NS UD SG

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

RAISE A HALLE LUJAH

REFLECTION

Reflection

As I was reflecting on the gospel, there were two lines that really spoke out to me -- “their eyes were prevented from seeing him” and “our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free”. I can sense their pain, disappointment and helplessness over the whole situation. But what I found more troubling was their inability to recognise Jesus, although he was walking beside them and speaking to them. In my head I thought: if only they had been able to see him, they would no longer be downcast but instead be overwhelmed with joy.

Why did they not recognise him? The gospel did not explicitly state what had prevented them from seeing Jesus, but that is besides the point. I feel that through this gospel, we are encouraged to think about the times when we too are not able to recognise Jesus moving in our lives. It is often difficult to see Jesus’ presence in trying times and we ourselves also experience spiritual blindness just like the two followers. This concept is not foreign to us. In light of the current pandemic, it is heart-wrenching to see so many people suffering and it is easy to catch ourselves wondering why the Lord has allowed all of this to happen and whether he is looking after his beloved people in this painful period.

Upon deeper contemplation, I became more aware of the Lord’s subtle workings in our world during this season. The fact that there is still love in this world, is evidence that the Lord is with us through all of this. The act of selflessness and compassion ever-present in this time triumphs over all despair. I think that oftentimes we focus on the all wrong things and cannot see the wider plan that God has in mind. The call for us today is to pray for greater spiritual perception and the grace to trust in the Lord’s promise to us that he has indeed overcome the world.

Patricia Choo

RAISE
A
HALLE
LUJAH

REFLECTIONS QUESTIONS

- 1) Where are you not able to see Jesus at the moment?
- 2) How is the Lord inviting you to experience him today?
- 3) What is a grace that you desire for the week?

RAISE
A
HALLE
LUJAH

PRAYER
OF THE WEEK

Let There Be Light - Hillsong Worship

There's no darkness in Your eyes
There's no question in Your mind
God almighty
God of mercy
There's no hiding from Your face
There's no striving in Your grace
God of mercy
God almighty

Let there be light
Open the eyes of the blind
Purify our hearts in Your fire
Breathe in us we pray
Jesus have Your way

There's no borders in Your love
No division in Your heart
God of heaven
God of freedom
There's no taking back the cross
No regret in what it cost
God of freedom
God of heaven

Let there be light
Open the eyes of the blind
Purify our hearts in Your fire
Breathe in us we pray
Let there be light
Open our eyes to Your heart
Desperate just to know who You are
Shine in us we pray
Jesus have Your way

Good news embracing the poor
Comfort for all those who mourn
For the broken hearted
We sing louder
Release from prison and shame
Oppression turning to praise
For every captive
Sing louder
Restoring sight to the blind
Breaking the curse of the night
For all in darkness
Sing louder
Proclaiming freedom for all
This is the day of the Lord
Beauty for ashes

Let the light that shines above
Become the light that shines in us
There's no darkness in Your way
So have Your way
Lord have Your way

RAISE A HALLE LUJAH

INVITATION

Song Reflection

As you reflect on this song in the quietness of your own home, allow the Holy Spirit to stir in your hearts.

Close your eyes and breathe deeply.

Let this song be your prayer today.

Some questions to guide your reflection are:
As you listen to the song, what is the image that comes to mind? What is the Lord inviting you to do?