# Space for God Walking with Jesus

#### PREPARATION

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me. I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

Psalm 16:7-8

## WORSHIP

Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, Lord.

They rejoice all day long in your wonderful reputation. They exult in your righteousness.

Psalm 89:15-16

# CONFESSION

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for your sins have brought you down.

Bring your confessions, and return to the Lord. Say to him, "Forgive all I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you.

Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.

Psalm 73:22-24

## MEDITATION Luke 24:13-32\*

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

"What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to

#### IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read Slowly, several times.

Reflect What does the text say?

Respond How does it relate to my life?

Rest I welcome God's healing and renewal.

death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

"Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

#### ANCHORING PRAYER

Open my eyes, that I may recognize Your presence.

#### REVIEW OF THE HEART

When has my heart "burned within" me as I walk with God? What disappointment with God have I experienced recently?

#### WISDOM

Moses continued, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. Deuteronomy 18:15

TESTIMONY What is God saying to me?

INTERCESSION Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.

# BENEDICTION

Jeremiah 14:9b

You are right here among us, Lord. We are known as your people. Please don't abandon us now!" -Amen-

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY Be still and quiet before God.

Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and guidance.

Speak and act from a listening heart.

Actively serve in community with others.

PermaneSED (Abide) Kurt D. Peters. **Bold** portions to be read in unison. \*Lectionary, Year A Scripture Quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation.