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The Emmaus Road: A Cantata

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The Emmaus Road

A Cantata with
words by Arthur O. Roberts
music by David J. Howard

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The Emmaus Road...

...is based largely upon the text found in the twenty-fourth chapter of Luke (NIV). Each piece is preceded by the reading of a portion of the scripture, which might well be done by one gifted reader. There are also passages of reflection or dialogue, made effective by several readers.

...might be enhanced by simple, creative staging which would add a visual dimension to the sung and spoken word.

...may be accompanied as written by piano, or by several players including guitar, bass, synthesizer, organ and drums. Separate parts are available for synthesizer and for guitar/bass/drums.


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THE EMMAUS ROAD

Arthur O. Roberts, words
David J. Howard, music

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Peace Be With You (transposed version)

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PiperMuse Press™
The Emmaus Road
Song 1, "I Will Go Ahead of You"

Arthur O. Roberts, words
David J. Howard, music

Somewhat energetic \( \text{J}=104 \)

Accomp.

That's what we heard him say.
We aren't sure just what he meant,

... ... ...
...
...

He'll go ahead of you, I'll go on to Galilee.

...
...
...

After I have risen I will meet us in Galilee.

...
...
...

He'll go ahead of you, I'll go on to Galilee.

...
...
...

In so many different ways he...
called us from the future. You see, he understood the times po- li-ti-cally, re-
al-ways moved ahead of us.

Jesus never seemed in-
sensi-tive to human hurts or needs, like we so of- ten
knew things could im-prove with love and truth up-lift-ed. He
caught us, caught us un-a-ware.

Women sing on “oo”
"Save the Spices"

**Reading:**

Luke 24:1-9 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.

**Music:**

Refrain:

Save the spices, sing the song!
Save the spices, sing the song!
Save the spices, sing the song!
Jesus is not here, He is risen.

1. Save the spices, sing the song!
See, the stone is rolled away,
Lift your eyes, do not fear,
Jesus frees us from our prison.
Right will triumph over wrong,
Evil is not here to stay,
But love is! Give love a cheer!
Jesus is not here, He is risen.

2. Save the spices, sing the song!
See, the stone is rolled away,
Lift your eyes, dry your tears,
Jesus sanctifies our reason.
Tyranny will not last long,
Justice is the better way,
His Cross makes that very clear,
Jesus is not here, He is risen.

3. Save the spices, sing the song!
See, the stone is rolled away,
Free your ears, let them hear,
Celebrate the Good News season!
To God's Kingdom now belong,
hail its great inaugural day!
Leap for joy, dance like a deer!
Jesus is not here, He is risen.
The Emmaus Road
Song 2, "Save the Spices"

Arthur O. Roberts, words
Excitedly 1-120

David J. Howard, music

Accomp.

Save the spices, sing the song!
Save the spices, sing the song!

A Bmin7 A Bmin7 A Bmin7 AMaj7 Bmin7

Save the spices, sing the song!
Save the spices, sing the song!

A E/G# A7/G D/F# A/E F#min Bmin7 A

Fine

Save the spices, sing the song!
Jesus is not here, He is risen.

A E/G# A7/G D/F# A/E F#min Bmin7 A

Fine

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Verse 1:

Verse 2:

Chorus:

Bridge:

Verse 3:

Chorus:

Bridge:

Verse 4:

Chorus:

Bridge:
Reading:

Luke 24:10-12 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Music:

Refrain (before and after the following readings):

Nonsense words from weeping women,
they imagine what can never be.
Ours is an evil, brutal world.
Jesus was good but so misguided,
and so were those who followed him,
including, also, you and me.

Reading:

First voice: Of course he’s dead, we saw him die,
we saw them pierce his side,
we heard him say, “It’s finished.”
We watched them take him down,
and bury him in Joseph’s cave.

Second voice: Sure, Jesus was our friend,
a prophet, maybe the Messiah,
we believed in him, loved him,
but now our Lord is dead,
and we must go on living,
without illusion, until we die.

Third voice: Don’t waste your sentiments,
on sublime religious notions,
keep your hopes down to earth.
Go with things just as they are,
forget religious dreams, forget
nonsense words from weeping women.

Fourth voice: Simon, Jesus won’t be back,
forget utopian hysteria.
Forget all this Kingdom talk,
notions like the power of love.
I said forget it, Peter... (silent person walks away)
Where are you going, Simon Peter?
The Emmaus Road
Song 3, "Nonsense Words"

Arthur O. Roberts, words
David J. Howard, music

Disgeike—very slow

Amin B7/A Amin B7/A Bb7/A A7

Non-sense words from weeping women.

Amin B7/A Amin B7/A Amin B7/A

they imagine what can never be.

Amin Emaj7/A Amin Emaj7/A

Last time only

Amin A°7 A°7/A A A°7/G7/A Bb7/A Amin

Fading away

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"We Had Hoped"

Reading:

Luke 24:13-21 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."

Music:

Refrain:

Jesus was the Messianic one  
 to bring God's kingdom to earth.  
 But now he's dead, the cause is cursed,  
 and we are desolate, just desolate.  
 What shall we do? What can be done?  
 We had hoped he was the Messianic one.

We had hoped he was the sage,  
 for whom the Baptist was a sign.  
 We thought it was the promised age  
 when everyone eats from his vine  
 and from his own fig tree,  
 and no one need draw back in fear.  
 We hoped it would be like the years  
 when David made our nation free.  
 What shall we do? What can be done?  
 We had hoped he was the one,  
 but now it's too late, too late;  
 his death has sealed our nation's fate.

We thought that he was God's anointed.  
 Now zealots will assassinate,  
 and soldiers will retaliate,  
 evil judges will be reappointed.  
 Our children will respond with hate,  
 and priests with ritualistic laws,  
 they'll tell us to keep still—just wait,  
 while we dangle from the lion's claws!

What shall we do? What can be done?  
 We had hoped that Jesus was the one,  
 but now it's too late, too late;  
 his death has surely sealed our fate.
The Emmaus Road
Song 4, "We Had Hoped"

Arthur O. Roberts, words
David J. Howard, music

Moderately fast but with pathos

Accomp.

Use sustaining pedal

Alto only

Em7(b5)/B♭
Bl7
Dmin

Jesus was the

Men-si-an-ic one

Gmin
A7
D
D

to bring God's

Bm7(b5)

Acc.

add Sopranos

king-dom to earth.

But now, he's dead, the

C7
C7
C7

cause is cursed, and we are de-so-late.

De-so-late, just

B7

D7

Gmin7

Acc.

de-so-late.

What shall we do?

What can be done?

We had

Dmin
Dmin7
A
A7
Dmin

Acc.

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hoped he was the Messianic one.

We had a sign. We thought it was the

promised age when everyone eats from his
tree and from his own fig tree, and no one
would be like the years when David made our
nation free. What shall we do? What can be

D/A A7 D What was God's appointed

Acc. D D D Now

Baritone done? We had hoped he was the one but

Amin F C Gmin Bb A7 p

Acc. p p p p

Tenor too late

Dmin Dmin Bm7(b5) i.h. Dmin/A

Acc. Amin Amin Amin B7/A

Tenor re-appointed.

Bmin7(b5)/A Amin Amin Amin B7/A

Acc. Amin Amin Amin B7/A

Tenor Freely

seated our nation's fate. We thought that

A7 Dmin/V A D D

Acc. Amin Amin Amin B7/A

Stanza 2 Tenor Freely

priests with ritualistic laws, they'll tell us to keep still just

bBm7/A Amin Dmin Dmin

Acc. Amin Dmin Dmin

24
Reading:

Luke 24: 21-24 “And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”

Music:

1. Dark was the day that Jesus died, darker still the silent tomb. Dark the sleepless nights I cried, darker still the inward gloom, darker still the inward gloom. Dark was the day that Jesus died.

2. Dark was the way that Jesus died, darker still the guarded tomb. Dark the days of an ebbing tide, darker still the empty room, darker still the empty room. Dark was the way that Jesus died.

3. Deep was the hope when Jesus died, deeper than the burial cave. Deep the mystery, the reason why, deeper yet the life He gave, deeper yet the life He gave. Deep was the hope when Jesus died.

Reading: Suddenly it seems, time flowed up and down, all around us. Birds intensified their singing, cool breezes brushed the face, carrying a perfume of flowers. The morning air tasted of honey, and, glinting in the sun, olive leaves burnished Jesus’ tomb with radiant light. Then a donkey brayed and the earth trembled. It was a vision of angels!

4. Light ruled the day that Jesus died, light ruled in the garden tomb. Light pushed heavy sadness aside, light overcame the world’s despair, light overcame the world’s despair. Light ruled the day that Jesus died.

5. Bright was the day that Jesus rose, brighter than the springtime dawn. Bright is the Kingdom that Jesus shows, brighter forever, for everyone! Brighter forever, for everyone! Bright was the day when Jesus rose!
The Emmaus Road
Song 5, "A Vision of Angels"

Arthur O. Roberts, words
David J. Howard, music

Vary Slow

Sop/Alto

Ten/Bass

Accomp.

Vary Slow

Emin F G F

Emin Dmin Emin F G Amin

SIA

T/B

Accomp.

Emin Dmin Emin F G Amin

S/A

T/B

Accomp.

C7 Bm D C7 C7 F Gmin Amin

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dark-er still the emp-ty room, dark-er still the emp-ty room. Deep the mys-tery, the rea-son why, deeper yet the life he gave.

More motion

Dark was the way that Je-sus died. Stanza 3 *Deep was the hope when

Tenor

Gmin Amin Gmin F C7 More motion

Pause for reading

Je-sus died, deep-er than the bur-ial cave.

Pause for reading

Je-sus died, Light ruled the day that

- Somewhat faster
Jesus died. Light ruled in the garden tomb.

Light pushed heavy sadness aside, light overcame the world’s despair.

More excited

With excitement

S9nza 5

Bright was the day when Jesus rose, brighter than the spring-time dawn.
Luke 24:25-27 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Reading:

"How Slow of Heart"

Music:

Refrain (sung before and after the readings):

Do you comprehend it now?
Jesus bore that dreadful cross
for sinners everywhere.
Our iniquity was laid on him
and by his wounds we’re healed.
Redemption comes through dying,
God reigns, his love prevails.

Reading:

How foolish and how slow of heart
to not believe words spoken
by the prophets long ago.
A leader like himself, said Moses,
would arise in latter days
to set the people truly free.

Isaiah wrote that the Messiah
would be a man of sorrows,
familiar with suffering,
pierced for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities,
and punished for our peace.

The Messiah will judge the peoples,
as Micah said, and settle their disputes;
they’ll beat swords into plowshares
and convert their spears to pruning hooks.
Nations will neither take the sword,
nor train their youth for war.
The Emmaus Road
Song 6, "How Slow of Heart"

Arthur O. Roberts, text
David J. Howard, music

Slowly

Do you com-pre-hend it now? Je-sus bore that dread-ful cross for
A cappella or very soft accompaniment

Our in-i-qui-ty was laid on
him and by his wounds we're healed.

Refrain:

Emmaus road ignites our souls,
Minds are learning, hearts are yearning.
Master, keep us learning, yearning,
burning. Make us free and whole,
our hearts aflame with Jesus' name!
O, Lord, our hearts are burning!

1. What if we had not heard at all,
numbed by an inner churning
at the agony of Israel,
and that harsh imperial spurning
of the Christ? What if his call
had brought about no turning . . . ?

2. Yes, O yes, our hearts were burning
when he walked the road with us.
Yes, O yes, our hearts were yearning,
when the stranger talked with us.
Why were we so slow in learning
how the Kingdom comes to us?

3. What if we had not urged the Master
to stay for evening dinner?
What if he had not joined our table?
What if we had remained unable
to recognize the heavenly Light
before he disappeared from sight?
The Emmaus Road

Song 7, "Our Hearts Were Burning"

Arthur O. Roberts, words
Gently 84

David J. Howard, music

Gently 84

Accomp.

With pedal

D Maj7 G Maj7 D/A G/A A7

Acc.

mp

S/A

Em - ma - us road Ig - nites our soul.

T/B

A7/D D D G D/F

Acc.

mp

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What if we had not heard at all, numbed by an inner churning at the agony of Israel, and that harsh imperial spuming of the Phrist? What if his call had brought about no turning?

Why were we so slow in learning how the Kingdom comes to us?

D.S. al Fine

D.S. al Fine
Reading:

Luke 24:33-35 They got up and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Music:

Refrain:

It is true, the Lord has risen.
O yes it's true, the Lord has risen,
he revealed himself to Simon,
and has shown himself to us.
Christ has risen from the dead!
Good news, God's truth prevails.

1. We really knew what Jesus said
when we ate our meal together,
when at table we broke bread.
Jesus is our liberator.

2. We gather now in Jesus' name
he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name
we sing for joy and celebration.

3. The Kingdom now includes us all,
in Christ sinners are forgiven,
Jesus ransoms from the fall.
To all the earth God's love is given.

4. O, how brightly looms tomorrow!
God has sent his chosen one,
Jesus conquers death and sorrow,
Gloom is ended, fear is gone.

5. This is history's finest hour.
Moment central to all time.
Now a new creation flowers,
Earth sings with a voice sublime.
Emmaus Road
Song 8, "It is True"

Arthur O. Roberts, words
Excerpts by Pipermuse

David J. Howard, music

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Read stanzas 1 & 2:
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
He has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.

We really knew what Jesus said when we ate our meal together.
When at table we broke bread, Jesus is our liberator.
We gather now in Jesus' name, he has brought us to salvation.
Gathered now in Jesus' name we sing for joy and celebration.

Excitedly

Arthur

Excitedly

Accomp.
The Kingdom now includes us all, in Christ sinners are forgiven.

Jesus ransoms from the fall. To all the earth God's love is given.

O, how brightly looms to-morrow! God has sent his choice one. Jesus

conquers death and sorrow. Gloom is ended, fear is gone. This is history's finest hour, moment central to all time. Now a

cresc.
"Peace Be With You"

Reading:

Luke 24:36-44. While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

Music:

Refrain:

Peace be with you, it is I!
I am no ghost, see my feet,
look at my hands, feel my side.
Don’t be frightened, it is I.
You broiled some fish, let me eat.
Rejoice, my friends, cast doubts aside,
Why did you think I had to die?
Peace be with you, it is I!

Reading:

1st voice: Tell us about the resurrection, what was it like?
2nd voice: Well, we were talking about the strange reports from Mary and the others, and then Jesus appeared. I was startled, thought I’d seen a ghost!
3rd voice: Me, too! but then he grinned at us, you remember his teasing way when he told us parables we were too dumb to comprehend? Well, it was like that, and then he shrugged and said straightforwardly, ghosts don’t have bones, but I have! Flesh and bones!
4th voice: Yeah, we laughed at that, "ghosts don’t have bones, but I have," nervously, at first, but then more easily, because he was free and unburdened, that day, like when he first called us, remember?
5th voice: Sure, then Jesus danced his feet a bit and held out his hands: look, he said, And we saw the scars and the tears came. I mean, it was more than I could handle. . .
6th voice: But he cheered us up! Don’t be so grim, he said, You’ve got the fish broiling, why don’t we eat? So we did. And then he went away, but not really away, just gone for a while to gather up the Kingdom.
7th voice: But he gave us his spirit. Yes, he’s with us now (all repeat).
Emmaus Road
Song 9, "Peace Be With You" *

Arthur O. Roberts, words
David J. Howard, music

Gently

D Daug Bmin/D D7 Bmin/D Daug D Daug

Accomp.

Peace be with you,

let me eat, Re-j oice, my friends, cast doubts a-side. Why did you think I

had to die? Peace be with you, It is I! Peace be with you, it is I!

feel my side. Don’t be fright - ened, it is I. You broiled some fish,

"* A transposed version for tenor is available at the end of the work.

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"Clothed With Power"

Reading:

Luke 24:45-50 He told them, "This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

Music:

Refrain:
Clothed with power, clothed with power!
Now be clothed with heavenly power.
God provides a quickening shower,
the Kingdom has been sown on earth,
humanity can find rebirth,
  so be clothed with power, clothed with power,
  the Holy Spirit's power!

1. Beginning at Jerusalem
   preach the resurrection
   to all the world, to everyone,
   to every tongue and nation.
   But wait until the Holy Spirit
   clothes you with God's power,
   He'll clothe you with God's power.

2. Beginning at Jerusalem
   preach the story of redemption,
   to the cities and the nations
   bound by sin and death.
   But wait here, stay within this city
   until you're baptized with God's power,
   until you're baptized with God's power.

3. Beginning at Jerusalem
   preach the Gospel of the Kingdom:
   how justice is for everyone,
   how to be stewards of the earth again.
   But wait here, stay here, pray here,
   until I clothe you with God's power,
   until I clothe you with God's power.
The Emmaus Road
Song 10, "Clothed With Power"

Arthur O. Roberts, words
David J. Howard, music

With strength, 

Clothed with power, now be clothed with power.

sown on earth, humanity can find rebirth; so be clothed with power.

be - gin - ning at Jeru - sa - lem

the res - sur - rec - tion to all the world, to ev - ery - one, to ev - ery tribe and na - tion. But

preach the res - sur - rec - tion to all the world, to ev - ery - one, to ev - ery tribe and na - tion. But

Pedal simile

heav - ly power. God provides a quick - ning show - er; the Kingdom has been

God pro - ves a quick - ning show - er; the Kingdom has been

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Read Stanza 2:
Beginning at Jerusalem preach the story of redemption
of the cities and the nations bound by sin and death.
But wait, here, stay within the city until you’re baptized with God’s power.

Stanza 3

Beginning at Jerusalem preach the Gospel of the Kingdom: how justice is for every-
heavenly power. God provides a quick-silver shower; the Kingdom has been

sown on earth, humanity can find rebirth; so be clothed with power,

clothed with power, the Holy Spirit's power!

Blessing
Emmaus Road
Song 9, "Peace Be With You"

Arthur O. Roberts, words
Synthesizer version
Tenor solo
David J. Howard, music

Gently
Peace be with you.

Clavichord-like kybd. patch

let me eat, Re - joice, my friends, cast doubts a-side
Why did you think I

had to die? Peace be with you, it is I.

I am no ghost, see my feet, look at my hands.

Don't be fright - ened, it is I. You broiled some fish,

feel my side. Don't be fright - ened, it is I.

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