*The Scene; a house in Emmaus. Mr & Mrs Cleopas are putting their shoes on.*

Mrs: Oooh, this is going to hurt. My feet were killing me when we got here.

C: What do you expect? I told you to wear sensible shoes, but would you listen!

Mrs: Oh Cleopas, don‘t go on. Actually, before we set off I’m just going to tell these good people what happened to us today. We set off from Jerusalem, just the two of us, this morning. We were chatting about what had happened, and hadn’t gone far when a stranger asked if he could walk with us. Well, to be honest we didn’t really feel like company, but the stranger seemed keen, so we walked with him. It would have been rude not to.

C: The stranger asked why we were sad. We explained to him that we were mourning Jesus’ death and the end of all that He had done..

Mrs: We had thought Jesus might be the one to save us from the Romans, but when we saw him die on the cross, we lost hope.

C: We couldn’t believe this man had been in Jerusalem for the past week and didn’t know about Jesus, with Him having caused such a fuss coming into the city riding on a donkey, people waving palm branches and shouting ‘Hosanna‘ and all that.

Mrs: Yes, and causing chaos in the temple by upsetting the money changers’ tables and setting the animals free.

C: Every day after that He was in the temple, teaching. You could tell the Pharisees didn’t like Him…..

Mrs: But He always had a good crowd listening to Him.

C: Then there was that time in the square when you could tell Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, but the Pharisees whipped the crowd into a frenzy demanding His blood, and got Barabbas freed.

Mrs: And when Jesus was crucified; the earthquake, the darkness, the curtain in the temple and …….

C: Don’t forget the saints appearing! That was one strange day!

Mrs: Thank you Cleopas! Please just let me tell them what happened. Once Jesus had been buried, some of His followers drifted away and went home.

C: That’s what we were doing, actually.

Mrs: Yes, but only after a few days and because you didn’t think it would be safe for me in Jerusalem. He does worry so!

C: Anyway, we thought the stranger must be a rabbi or something, because he started to discuss the scriptures with us. Actually, it was more that he was explaining to us about Jesus.

Mrs: Starting with the books of Moses, he told us about some of the readings you have had tonight; how Jesus had been promised, about His lineage, birth, life and death, all from our Scriptures, what you would call the Old Testament.

C: Then he went on to tell us that it was also foretold by the prophets that Jesus would rise from the dead.

Mrs: I didn’t think that was possible, so, although I listened to what he said, I didn’t believe him.

C: We were amazed that one man could know all this, so when we arrived in Emmaus and came to this house, we asked him to stay and eat with us. At first he seemed to want to go on, but we insisted, as the day was nearly over.

Mrs: Anyway, once supper was ready and we sat down to eat, he took the bread and broke it, giving thanks to God. At that moment it was as if…..well you could have knocked me down with a feather. Just by the way he broke the bread, we realized the stranger was Jesus! He had been walking and talking with us all day, and we hadn’t recognized him!

C: Well, there were so many questions we wanted to ask Him, but He just sort of disappeared. To think, we had just spent the day with Jesus, and not known it!

Mrs: We’re so excited, well, we’ve just got to tell the others. I can’t get a signal on my phone outside Jerusalem, so we got straight up from the table, grabbed some bread, and here we are, about to set off back to Jerusalem to find the others. I know they will be as excited as we are, so if you’ll excuse us, we must dash, as it’s getting dark now.

*Mrs C jumps on Cleopas for a piggy back. Cleopas grunts.*

Mrs: Well, you can’t expect me to walk back in these shoes! Come on Cleopas, let’s get going!

Exit stage right or left (or down the aisle)