Luke 24:13-35, The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus (NRSV)

Arranged for Dramatic Reading by David A. Douthett, 2014

This interpretation of the narrative is based on the suggestion by someone whom I now forget (sorry!) that we can find both disciples in the text, one hopeful and one discouraged. Your readers should bring those emotions out. I've given Cleopas the hopeful voice, while the unnamed disciple is more pessimistic.

Narrator 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,

Jesus "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?"

Narrator They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him,

Cleopas "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem"

who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

Narrator He asked them,

Jesus "What things?"

Cleopas "The things about Jesus of Nazareth,

who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

Disciple 2 AND how our chief priests and leaders

handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

Cleopas But WE had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.

Disciple 2 Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

Cleopas 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. (!!)

Disciple 2 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."

Narrator Then [Jesus] said to them,

Jesus "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?"

Narrator 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,

Disciple 2 "Stay with us,

Cleopas because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over."

Narrator 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,

Disciple 2 "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the

road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

Narrator 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.