



*Serving the Spiritual Needs of Grieving Parents  
Whose Children of Any Age Have Died by Any Cause,  
No Matter How Long Ago*

**Your Emmaus Ministry  
Remote Retreat Guide  
July 18 , 2020  
9:30am EDT**

**I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS**

Last week we talked about receiving the deep peace the world cannot give. This week we are assured that this peace--and the presence of God and Our Lord, Jesus Christ, will be with us always--even until the end of time.



**Preparation:**

Ahead of time, we recommend you find a quiet place in your home where you can immerse yourself in this retreat. Have your child's Emmaus Memorial Candle (or other candle) available along with a lighter or matches.

Take several deep breaths to cleanse your thoughts and open yourself to wherever the Holy Spirit is calling you today several minutes before the retreat is scheduled to begin.

At 9:30am EDT open your email and join other fellow Emmaus Parent Companions in getting away from the rest of the world, at least for a time, to focus on God and on your precious child.

**CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER** (Light your candle)

We begin... In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen

Lord, you are the Light of the World. *Help us feel your presence in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us the gift of our children. *Help us feel their presence in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us the hope of eternal life. *Help us confirm that hope in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us love. *Help us to know that, as much as we love our children, you love them even more.*

We ask you this through Christ, Our Lord  
Amen.

**OPENING SONG:** *Be With Me, Lord* by the Arch Street Band  
*When I'm in trouble and don't know where to go...*

**PRAYER OF THOSE MAKING A RETREAT**

Loving Spirit of Wisdom,  
Guide my thoughts and my memories.

In the light of your love,  
May I see what is important for me to remember,  
What is important for me to hold to my heart,  
And what I need to simply let go of in peace.

I trust you to be my guide,  
Even when the path seems unclear to me.

We pray this in the name of Your Son, the Healer,  
Our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## Scripture Readings

### Matthew 1: 23

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “*God is with us.*”

### Matthew 28: 16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.  
When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

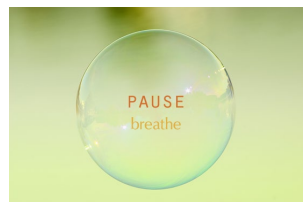
Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit,

Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**REFLECTION #1:** *Be At Peace* by Fr. Larry Richards  
*I am not only with you... I am IN you.*



Take a moment to pause... breathe... savor what you have received from the Reflection #1.

Clear your mind before focusing on Reflection #2 and #3.

**REFLECTION #2:** *Time in the Desert*-Word Among Us  
*I will lead you into the desert and speak to your heart.*

**REFLECTION #3: [I Accept Your Invitation](#)**-Word Among Us  
*Help me to cast aside all gloominess and find joy in your presence!*

**PRAYER**

**STAY WITH ME, LORD**

Adapted from *Prayer after Communion* by St Padre Pio

Stay with me, Lord, for you are my life, my strength, my faith, my passion, and my light.

Lord, stay so I don't forget you, abandon you, or fall into darkness

Lord, my soul is poor, but let it be a home for you.

Stay with me, Lord, that I may see your will.

Stay with me, O my Lord, that I may hear your voice.

Stay with me, Lord, that I may love you.

Stay, Lord Jesus, stay, for the day is late and night comes quickly.

Stay, Lord Jesus, stay, and strengthen me.

I fear the dark, the cross, the sorrow, the temptations.

Lord, Jesus, I need you to hold me this day.

I ask no comfort but your staying, your love, your will, your light, your spirit.

I ask no other consolation. I ask no other gift, but love.

Lord, I ask you to end this darkness of my soul.

Allow me to see the grace and brilliance of your everlasting love.

Embolden me to be able to share it with others, according to your will.

Amen.

**CLOSING SONG: [Breastplate of St. Patrick](#)** by the Arch St. Band

**LYRICS:** Christ before me, Christ above me, Christ within me...

**CLOSING BLESSING**

Let us end our time of retreat...united with Brother John Maganzini, OFM and the Franciscan Friars at Saint Anthony Shrine in Boston, MA, by blessing one another.

Raise your right hand and, together, let us pray...

May God

Be above you to bless you;

Below you to support you;

Before you to guide you;

Behind you to protect you;

Beside you to comfort you;

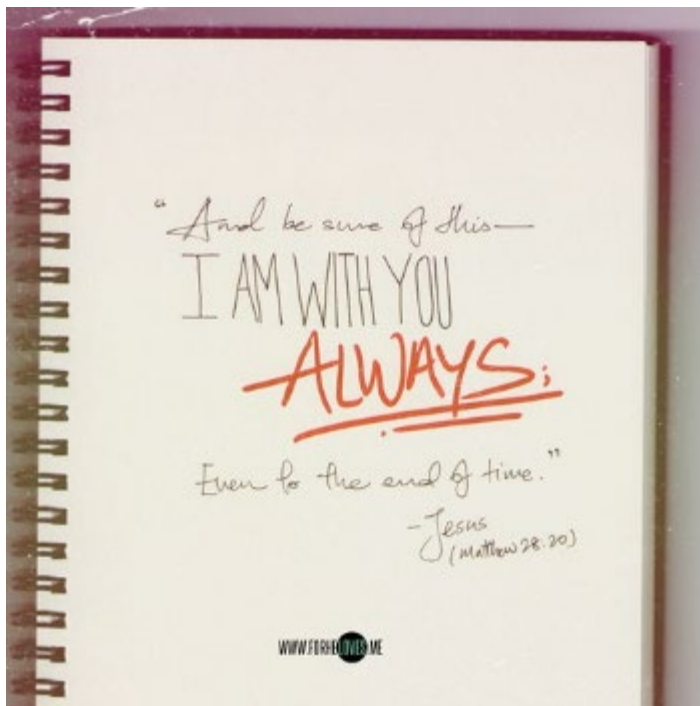
And inside you to give you strength and joy.

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

Amen

**FOR FURTHER  
REFLECTION...**

**[Jesus With You Always:](#)**  
*An Inspirational Video*



**Do Not Fear:** *I will remain with you always, until the end of time.*

You will receive a new Emmaus Remote Retreat email next Friday.

Please join your fellow Emmaus Parent Companions again next Saturday at 9:30am EDT

Until then, may God bless you and keep you. Sending many warm, virtual hugs

For past Remote Retreats, see [here](#).

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#### REMINDER

We have concluded our Emmaus Ministry LIVE Virtual Gathering Series. If you were not able to join us for our Reflections --or would like to see them again-- you can access these inspiring talks [here](#).



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