

## **The Third Sunday of Easter April 30<sup>th</sup> 2017**

### **Introduction**

**The Gospel of St. Luke today is the only Gospel that describes the Lord's meeting with the two disciples, on the road to the village of Emmaus. Of all the post resurrection appearances of Christ, maybe we can relate to this one most easily because the Emmaus story is really our story.**

**These two followers of Christ don't appear anywhere else in the Gospel. We don't hear about them before or after this incident. We only know the name of one of them. Our lack of knowledge about them is an important detail. Here the scene shifts from the major figures of the Gospel, like Peter, John, Mary Magdalene and Thomas to two ordinary people like us, and the Lord comes to them.**

**The first point of the Emmaus story is, that the Risen Christ is near to all of us, to every Risen Christian. As St Peter says in the second reading, we were all ransomed by his very blood.**

**These two disciples to whom the Lord came were not in Jerusalem, not in the upper room, not even near the garden tomb .They were on an ordinary road, travelling to a small village a few miles from Jerusalem .**

**The Gospel teaches us that the Risen Christ can join us wherever we are. We don't have to be in the great spiritual centers of the world .The Risen Lord can be part of our life wherever we are . The "where" of the Emmaus story is a nameless road, really any road , every road where we are – any point on the road of life as a child , teenager, young adult, parent or senior citizen. It is anywhere in the world of work, whatever our occupation. It is anywhere we are personally, in doubt, in grief, in joy in consternation, in worry in distress. Christ is there with us. That is the "where" of the Emmaus story. The road on which the disciples travelled is our road right now. And Christ is with us as well.**

**Evidently these two disciples didn't see the empty tomb. And didn't believe the reports they heard. Their way of coming to know Jesus was in the "breaking of Bread (an**

**early term for the mass) .Reflection on the scriptures and the rite of the Eucharist is how most of us come to know the Lord. We don't have visions, we don't have the nail prints,we don't hear our voice called by the audible voice of Christ. We come to know the Lord as we enter into the Sacred Scriptures and in the Eucharist as we gather to do what Jesus told us, (like now), "do this in memory of me ". Here is where we recognize that the Lord is with us.**

**The message of the Emmaus Gospel is that whoever you are, wherever you are in life , the Risen Lord is near you. We come to recognize his presence in "the breaking of bread" in the Mass throughout our lives.**

**That is why it is important to stay close to the Mass in difficult times as well as good times. We come to Mass at weddings, at funerals , at Christmas at Easter , in Ordinary times, and extraordinary. Here our eyes are opened and we realize that the Lord is really with us all the time, all along the way. Like these two disciples ,we can so**

**focus on our own disappointments and problems, on our own preconceptions of how things should be that we can miss the bigger picture. They thought they found a Liberator but Jesus revealed Himself as a crucified Redeemer. They thought He would save Israel, but Jesus came for the Gentiles as well. They could not understand pain, suffering or catastrophe as part of the plan of God. Jesus showed them that it was.**

**We too can have our own ideas about Jesus, His message and his Church. When Jesus broke the disciple's blindness with His explanation of the Scriptures, their vision became clearer. The price of recognizing Jesus is always the same: our ideas of Him and the church and of the spiritual journey have to be replaced with His truth. When we let go of our private and limited vision our pre-packaged values and preconceived ideas, the Risen Lord is revealed. Amen.**

**(All comments /suggestions are welcome  
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