

### Third Sunday of Easter - Lectionary: 46

#### Reading 1 [ACTS 2:14, 22-33](#)

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: "You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it. For David says of him: I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted; my flesh, too, will dwell in hope, because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence. "My brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day. But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption. God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured him forth, as you see and hear."

**Responsorial Psalm [PS 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11](#) R. (11a) Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

#### Reading 2 [1 PT 1:17-21](#)

Beloved: If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb. He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

#### Gospel [LK 24:13-35](#)

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

Have you ever felt like you are all alone? Do you get lonely? Have you ever looked out to the world around you and been saddened to see so many people moving like a river, seemingly without intention or control? Maybe you've looked out at the great expanse beyond you, like in the prairies, and just felt insignificant, without meaning or purpose. Have you ever been confused, angry, bitter... as a person of faith, because nothing seemed to be the way it should be if God is listening, loving, forgiving... If you have, then you understand exactly what these two disciples are experiencing. Like them we can become frustrated, or discouraged, because the reality of what happens doesn't measure up to what we were expecting. There's no doubt that this story is a story for everyone. It's about what happens if you let disappointment, doubt, disillusionment, defeat, discouragement, despondency, and despair determine your direction. **Jesus walks** - with me when I am walking away.

It's also a story about what happens when we choose like David, to set the Lord always before us and to listen and learn from what Peter teaches. **Jesus Walks** – and, I walk with him as I journey home. We can't control everything in life, but we can control how we are going to deal with those realities. We can control what direction we take by not re-acting, but by taking action. The road to Emmaus is a symbol of the Christian life and Jesus is the key to interpret the mystery of that life. This is story about the meaning of Easter, enabling us to be filled with hope and joy even if we are surrounded by despair, disappointment and discouragement. It enables us to see the world, not as a place of death, decay, and defeat, but as a garden that is full of possibility and of potential. A world which is groaning toward God's final victory. A world in which we walk with God who will be with us until the end of the age and we will fear no evil. God raised Jesus; and of this truth, we are all witnesses. We are witnesses of it either because we ourselves have had direct encounters with the risen Lord, or because we have listened to the testimony of those who have been so blessed.

Once Cleopas and his brother disciple came into the presence of the Risen Lord their hearts were set on fire, burning within them! Jesus became the anchor of their lives. But it would not have happened if they had not allowed him to journey with them, and then opened their home to him. And, having done so, Jesus was able to reveal to them the meaning of His life, that His blood paid the ransom for their lives, and so they were impelled to be witnesses to Jesus' resurrection and his living presence. They became able to live the truth of Gods promise in the book of Revelations, *"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it... Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."*(Rev 1:3; Rev 22:7)

How do we keep the lessons of this story always fresh in our minds? Easy, it's a great reflection every week as we gather for our Eucharistic Celebration! Because, this story is also a model of the Eucharist: Those walking together on the Road gather together and meet Jesus, first, in the Liturgy of the Word as the Scriptures are broken open and explained, and, second, in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, where what Jesus did for us through his suffering, death and resurrection is remembered with thanksgiving and the bread that is now his Body and the wine that is now his Blood, is shared among those who are the Members of that Body to strengthen their union and their commitment to continuing the work of Jesus.

In this 3<sup>rd</sup> week of our Easter Joy we're invited to reflect more deeply on what Jesus has actually done for us and continues to do for us. Through his death and Resurrection, the chains of our slavery have been shattered. So, lets live our lives freely choosing the direction of eternal life and be fearless as we walk with Jesus, Home.