

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have  
mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive  
our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

AC 2:14.22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: "Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:  
I saw the Lord before me always,  
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad  
and my tongue cried out with joy:  
my body, too, will rest in the hope  
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
nor allow your holy one to experience  
corruption.

You have made known the way of life to me,  
you will fill me with gladness through your  
presence.

"Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESP. PSALM**

PS 15

Response:

**Show us, Lord, the path of life.**

or

**Alleluia!**

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: "You are my God."  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize. (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

1 P 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.**

**Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Lk 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, "What matters are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, "You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days." "What things?" he asked. "All about Jesus of Nazareth" they answered "who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all

happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing." Then he said to them, "You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ would suffer and so enter into his glory?" Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. "It is nearly evening" they said "and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?"

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, "Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

(all bow during the next two lines)

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Receive, O Lord, we pray,  
these offerings of your exultant Church,  
and, as you have given her cause for such  
great gladness,  
grant also that the gifts we bring  
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

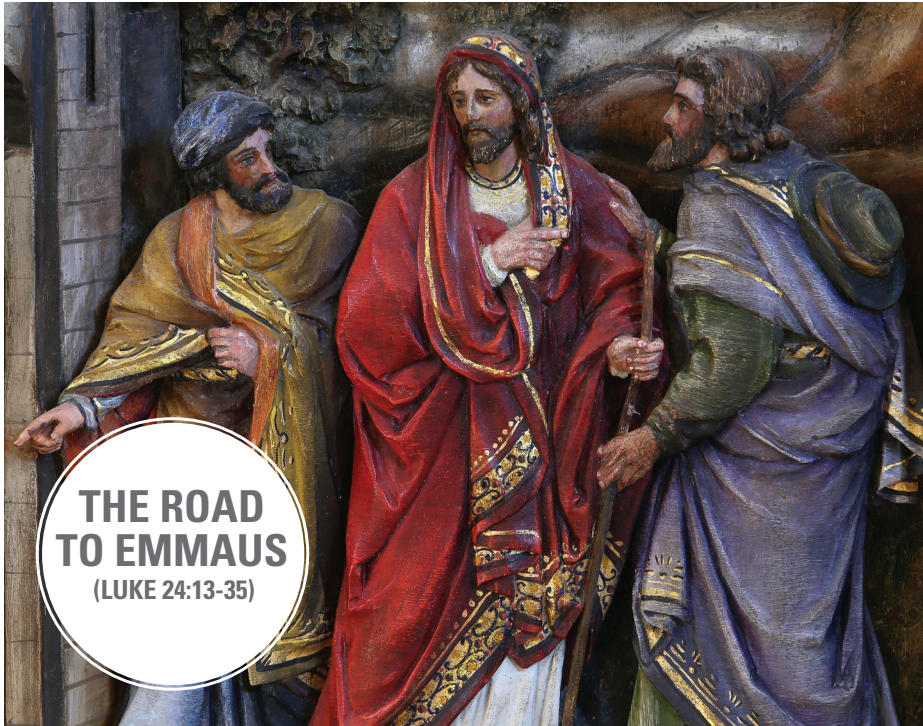
# Sunday Message

30 APRIL 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

## THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: White • Psalter week 3



### THE ROAD TO EMMAUS (LUKE 24:13-35)

*The disciples encounter Jesus on the road to Emmaus, relief on the baptismal font in the church of Saint Matthew in Stitar, Croatia*

#### DO

Take your missal and look at the structure of the Mass. In the liturgy of the Word, notice that on Sunday the first reading and the gospel share the same theme. The one should illuminate the other.

#### SAY

The New Testament lies hidden in the Old: the Old lies open in the New (St Jerome).

#### LEARN

It is more important that the disciples are walking away from Jerusalem than going towards Emmaus.

The Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament) are essential to our understanding of Jesus and God's plan for us.

Pentecost is the final act of the Paschal Mystery.

#### How can we encounter Jesus today?

Luke is writing his gospel for the second generation of Christians who did not know Jesus in his lifetime. He uses this beautiful and well-written narrative to address this question which applies just as much to ourselves as to the community of his day. The answer he gives is that we can encounter the Risen Lord, and we do this through the sacrament of the Eucharist.

The two disciples, Cleopas and another who might be his wife, are walking away from Jerusalem. For Luke, Jerusalem is the focal point of redemption, it is the place where God's plan will come to its fulfilment. But the Easter mystery is not yet complete: Pentecost has not occurred, the

Spirit is yet to come. So the despondent pair are walking away from salvation. They are bewildered: they cannot make sense of what happened to Jesus, because they are aware of only part of the story. All they can give the mysterious stranger is an account of the facts. What the risen Jesus supplies is the key to Jesus' passion and crucifixion – the will of God as expressed in the Jewish scriptures. Throughout the gospel there has been a constant theme that this had to happen: "Was it not ordained?" He asks them.

When they are at table, Jesus performs the Eucharistic action of taking bread, blessing God, breaking the bread and giving it to them. As he explained the scriptures to them they had begun to experience a

burning feeling, perhaps of love, which culminated in their eyes being (figuratively) opened and they realise that they are in the presence of the risen Lord, that what the women had reported was really true. Nothing had changed except their perception of the person in front of them, but in that sense everything had changed. They return rejoicing to Jerusalem and rejoin the others, who confirm their experience with word of the appearance to Simon, the leader of the disciples.

We should perhaps note that the final line of the story should read: "how he had made himself known to them in the breaking of bread". In the bible, God or the risen Jesus make themselves known to people: human beings do not discover God. ■

#### REFLECT

Our ideas of Gospel scenes are often coloured by pictures we have looked at. Traditional visual presentations of the Emmaus episode show Jesus with two male disciples, but there is nothing in the original text to say that this must be the case. The remark about foolish men can just as well be rendered foolish people. One of the women mentioned at the crucifixion

in John is Mary the wife of Clopas, so the suggestion of the two at Emmaus being Cleopas and his wife is not impossible. In his Gospel, Luke has given a prominent place to women and mentioned them as companions of Jesus in his travels.

In the book of Acts (Ch 8), Luke gives a complementary story about the Ethiopian official, and there we find the same elements, the Jewish scriptures, the details about the suffering Jesus

and a sacramental encounter, this time baptism.

So how do we encounter the risen Lord today? In the sacraments. In the Mass we celebrate the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist and when we come together the Lord is present among us. The lesson of Emmaus is that the Lord is present: we do not need to see him. ■