

Sunday Message

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year B • 14 April 2024 • Psalter Week 3

JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES

LUKE 24: 35-48



The disciples cannot make sense of Jesus' death. Nor can they make sense of what is going on when Jesus appears to them. When this Gospel is written, Luke writes it to strengthen the belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. By themselves, the disciples cannot arrive at an understanding of what is going on, they need the risen Christ to uncover the meaning of what is happening.

The two disciples of Emmaus have returned to Jerusalem to tell their story of a personal encounter with Jesus and how they recognised him at the breaking of bread. But can the assembly of the disciples make sense of all that has happened? While they are still talking and debating about all they have heard, Jesus appears among them. And like the account in John's Gospel, he prays peace upon this holy gathering. Rather than recognising Jesus, they are alarmed and frightened. They think they are seeing a ghost. They are unable to make sense of what is happening before their eyes. There are parallels here with the story of Doubting Thomas. He too struggled with the initial signs shown by the risen Jesus. Here too, the appearance of Jesus does not open the eyes of the disciples. Only the risen Christ can take the disciples from mystery to revelation, from confusion to understanding. ■

LEARN

'The source of the Church's mission is the conviction that Christ is risen and fully alive and present to the community of believing Christians.' (Archbishop John Niendstedt)

SAY

'Give something, however small, to one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.'

(Saint Gregory of Nazianzus)

DO

How can you be of service to God's people this week? Is there a reluctance in you to volunteer for a worthy parish initiative? How can you support your fellow lay missionaries?



REFLECT

The understanding of the Church today and the unique insights we have of the risen Jesus and his life and ministry are based on the unique experiences of the early disciples and the documentation of these experiences in the bible. The first disciples may have struggled initially to make sense of what was happening before their eyes. However, they did not keep their experiences to themselves. They became missionaries, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the world. The Church is always missionary and evangelises everywhere. As this text is being written, Pope Francis is visiting the Church in Mongolia. A place where the initial seeds of the Word are growing and where the presence of Pope Francis offers hope and encouragement to all who believe. Every generation must make the message of Jesus its own and pass it on to others. We keep the message alive by giving it away. We recognise Jesus at the breaking of bread, and we show his peace and love to the world. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

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.

COLLECT

May your people exult for ever, O God,
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of
our adoption,
we may look forward in confident hope
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites,
and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his
servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed
over and then disowned in the presence of
Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him.
It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just
One, who demanded the reprieve of a
murderer while you killed the prince of life. God,
however, raised him from the dead, and to that
fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor
your leaders had any idea what you were really
doing; this was the way God carried out what
he had foretold, when he said through all his
prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you
must repent and turn to God, so that your sins
may be wiped out.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 4 :2,4,7,9

Response:

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.
Or Alleluia!

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me,
have mercy and hear me! (R.)

2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those
whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)
3. What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.
(R.)
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at
once
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.
(R.)

SECOND READING

1 John 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John.

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,
but the whole world's.
We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.
Anyone who says, 'I know him,'
and does not keep his commandments, is a liar,
refusing to admit the truth.
But when anyone does obey what he has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.
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

Luke 24:35-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

The disciples told their story of what had
happened on the road and how they had
recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about this when Jesus
himself stood among them and said to them,
"Peace be with you!" In a state of alarm and
fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost.
But he said, "Why are you so agitated, and why
are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at
my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me
and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and
bones as you can see I have." And as he said
this he showed them his hands and feet. Their
joy was so great that they could not believe it,
and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to
them, "Have you anything here to eat?" And
they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he
took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, "This is what I meant when
I said, while I was still with you, that everything
written about me in the Law of Moses, in the
Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled."
He then opened their minds to understand the
scriptures, and he said to them, "So you see
how it is written that the Christ would suffer and
on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in
his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins
would be preached to all the nations, beginning
from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Christ had to suffer and on the third day
rise from the dead;
in his name repentance and remission of sins
must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord,
and grant, we pray,
that those you were pleased to renew by eternal
mysteries
may attain in their flesh
the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.