



**April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year A – Luke 24:13 – 35**

<sup>24:13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’ <sup>19</sup>He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</li> <li>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</li> <li>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).</li> </ul>
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In this week’s gospel we see the two disciples walking along, trying to make sense of the events of Good Friday. Jesus meets up with them and is content to walk along silently with them. He invites them to tell their stories with many ups and downs and their great hopes dashed. The silence of Jesus enables him to experience their stress. He then talks with them teaching them that the teaching of the scriptures is not complete until it is experienced in their lives. As a result of their encounter with Jesus and the wisdom they gained, they were able to return to their communities with new hope. In these times many of us are walking with our heads down and are very confused. Many of our hopes and dreams have been dashed. Who were the people that stayed with us silently and allowed us to tell our stories and enabled us to return to our communities with a new heart?

**Prayer:**

**Thank you Lord** for all the people who help us to get to know you through the scriptures and enable us to begin to understand your great love for us. We begin to experience our hearts burning within us with love for Jesus.

**Forgive us Lord** for the times that we have no patience with people who are walking with their faces downwards and unable to make sense of their lives. We often put labels on them instead of giving them space to tell their stories as Jesus did.

**Lord help us** to build up communities of sharing and trust where people can experience your presence and live with peace and understanding of each other.