



ANNUNCIATION CHURCH

"As the father sent me, so I send you."

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THIRD SUNDAY OF

Easter

APRIL 26, 2020

Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way
and opened the Scriptures to us?

Luke 24:32

Emmaus might as well be Brigadoon. We hear of it in this one story—and it's only in Luke—and then it disappears. The journey to Emmaus is one of the most beloved stories about Jesus, and yet the town is probably "mythical" in the truest sense. Like so much of life, this story is about the journey, not the destination. Running away from Jerusalem and their fears, probably going home in disillusionment, two of Jesus' disciples encounter a stranger on the road who, like a rabbi, is able to help them understand their experiences using his deep knowledge of scripture. Later, sharing a meal with him, they recognized the stranger as Jesus, and they return to Jerusalem to tell the others. How like our Mass—we hear the scriptures and an explanation of them, we share a meal, and then we go out to tell the good news.

THE STRANGER

Imagine meeting a stranger, a fellow traveler, who butts into the conversation you're having with your friend. The two disciples in today's Gospel are heading to Emmaus, seven miles away from Jerusalem, heart-broken and disillusioned. It's the day of Jesus' resurrection, but no one knew it when these two set out on their journey, maybe going home to resume their pre-Jesus lives because it seemed as if everything was over.

In the middle of trying to make sense of the tragedy, some eavesdropping guy asks

them about their troubles. After telling their story, the disciples are amazed to find this stranger able to piece together the fragments of the broken image of their master using scripture as the glue. Then it happens—at dinner they recognize Jesus in the breaking of bread, just before he vanishes. With their hearts burning with love and inspiration, they run back to Jerusalem—at night—to tell the others their new story.

THE STRANGER/SHEPHERD

The stranger in this story who turns out to be Jesus is reminiscent of the Gospel images of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. He seeks out his "lost sheep" who have strayed from the faith community, and the experience of the risen Lord transforms them into perhaps the very first evangelists, sharing their Good News with their friends back in Jerusalem.

Are we transformed by the time we leave Mass? We should be! Our hearts should be burning within us from our experience of Jesus in word and sacrament. Yet how often life breaks our heart and clouds our mind! We stumble toward our own Emmaus, unaware that Jesus is with us. We are privileged to experience Jesus in every Eucharist through the breaking open of scripture and by the breaking of the bread. Like the disciples of the story, that transforming experience can compel us to go forth and tell everyone the Good News.

APRIL 26
2020



TERCER
DOMINGO DE

Pascua

Los discípulos contaron
lo que les había pasado por el camino
y cómo lo habían reconocido
al partir el pan.

LUCAS 24:35

Ilustración de la Vela de Pascua: Andy Ward para The Church of England, 1987-1988, CELM-USCCB. Todos los derechos reservados. Fuente: https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/illustration/117234107/Ilustración de la Vela de Pascua, S. Jacobo, Plaza España, London/Adobe Stock

Imagínate encontrar a un desconocido, un compañero de viaje, que se entromete a una conversación que estás teniendo con tu amigo. Los dos discípulos en el Evangelio de hoy se dirigen a Emaús, a siete millas de Jerusalén, desconsolados y desilusionados. Es el día de la resurrección de Jesús, pero nadie sabía cuándo estos dos empezaron su camino, quizá regresando a casa para continuar sus ocupaciones previas a su seguimiento a Jesús, pues parecía como si todo hubiera terminado.

En medio del intento para encontrar sentido a la tragedia, algún hombre escucha a escondidas y les pregunta acerca de sus problemas. Después de contarle su historia, los discípulos se sorprenden encontrar a un desconocido que usando las Escrituras pone todas las piezas juntas de una imagen rota de su maestro. Lo que luego pasa, durante la cena reconocen a Jesús al partir el pan, justo para desaparecer ante ellos. Con sus corazones encendidos de amor e inspiración, corren para regresar a Jerusalén, en la noche, para contarles a los otros su nueva historia.

EL DESCONOCIDO/PASTOR

El desconocido en esta historia que resulta ser Jesús, es una reminiscencia de las imágenes del Evangelio de Jesús como el Buen Pastor. Él busca a sus “ovejas perdidas” que se han desviado de la comunidad de fe, y la experiencia del Señor resucitado los transforma en quizá los primeros evangelistas, compartiendo la Buena Nueva con sus amigos regresando a Jerusalén.

¿Somos transformados cuando salimos de Misa? ¡Deberíamos! Nuestros corazones deberían arder dentro de nosotros debido a nuestra experiencia de Jesús en palabra y sacramento. ¡Sin embargo, que tan a menudo la vida rompe nuestros corazones y nubla nuestra mente! Tropezamos hacia nuestro Emaús, ignorando que Jesús está dentro de nosotros. Somos privilegiados de experimentar a Jesús en cada Eucaristía mediante las Escrituras y al partir el pan. Como los discípulos de esta historia, esa experiencia transformadora puede obligarnos a avanzar y anunciar a todos la Buena Nueva.

Lecturas de hoy: Hch 2:14, 22-33; Sal 16 (15):1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; 1 Pe1:17-21; Lc 24:13-35