

---

Easter Sunday Homily  
April 1, 2018  
Christ the Good Shepherd, ORCC  
Msgr. Harry Posner

---

Acts 10:34a; 37-43  
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8  
Luke 24:13-35

During this past Lenten Season, we focused on the theme of journey in both our music and in our homilies; how our journey toward the cross and with the cross, leads to the joy of the resurrection.

On this, the most joyful day of our faith, we continue the theme of journey, but this time with a new twist. Our gospel reading today makes it clear that no matter where we find ourselves in life, no matter where we journey, Jesus, our Risen Lord, is there walking with us. Think about it. No matter what path we choose in life, no matter how many struggles we face, or mountains we've climbed and have yet to climb, our Risen Lord is there with us. We are not alone. That, my friends, is the joy of Easter.

In our Gospel account, we find two people, two believers in Jesus who are confused and discouraged. They didn't know what to believe. So, in their confusion, they wandered away from their friends, their community of support, the emerging Church. On their journey to Emmaus, they encountered a stranger who walked with them and explained how Jesus fulfilled the promise of the prophets and fulfilled the scriptures. The Word of God was made known to them. While they didn't initially recognize Jesus in the stranger, their confusion was lifting.

It was only after the breaking of the bread, that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus. It was in the breaking of the bread that they gained the courage to change, to begin a new path back to other disciples, where they could share their experience. It was their encounter with Jesus in Word and Sacrament that brought about this change, that gave them courage and opened their hearts to God's grace.

This gospel account lays the foundation for the importance of community, of Church, in our individual and collective spiritual journey as well. For it is in Word and Sacrament that our eyes are open to the reality of Jesus in our own lives. When we come to mass, we celebrate the Word of God, we break open the scriptures and apply it to our lives. After being nourished by the Word, we celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist. We take the ordinary

elements of bread and wine, and in our communal prayer, in the consecration of the Eucharist, the ordinary bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus, the living presence of our Risen Lord.

In today's gospel passage, after the recognition of the risen Jesus in Word and Sacrament, the two disciples now head back to Jerusalem, this time with hearts burning with love. Isn't that our call as well? Are we not called to live in the light and to share the light of Christ to the world around us?

When we speak of Church, often people think of a static institution that is unbending, rigid, slow to change. While some of that may be true, that is not what Church means. We are a Pilgrim Church; a dynamic body that is perpetually in motion, perpetually on a journey toward our destiny, the Kingdom of God. We are the Church!

God has given us a community, the Church, to break open the Word and to feast at the Table, to receive the Risen Lord in the Eucharist, where no one is excluded, where each and every one of us is equal and deserving. It is in community where our faith is strengthened, where we find the energy to continue our journey with the Risen Lord.

As we journey together as a people of God, as a Pilgrim Church, we walk with the Risen Jesus, no matter where we find ourselves in life. This house, my friends, this church is God's House – Welcome home. It is here where you can be nourished in Word and Sacrament. It is here where you can encounter the Risen Jesus and share that experience with a loving and supportive community.

As I conclude this homily, I am reminded of one of my favorite hymns.

*Amazing Grace*

“Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved and set me free! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.”

Sing with me # 433

---

Easter Sunday Homily  
April 1, 2018  
Christ the Good Shepherd, ORCC  
Msgr. Harry Posner

---

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.”

“The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.”

“Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; ‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.”

“When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise, then when we’d first begun.”

Amen!