

April 18, 2021

3rd Sunday of Easter

Looking in the right place

“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” – Luke 24:47-48

Have you ever had the feeling that our world is lost? That it has no direction? That the people that we've elected or those that are in charge seem out of touch with some of the biblical principles we, as Christians, try to live? Peace, justice, forgiveness, kindness and compassion for all are just a few. Even the most devout Christians can become lost or distracted by giving into sin and temptation.

Even before Covid-19, we were seeing declines in Church attendance. As always, people are searching for answers to life's questions and meaning for their lives. However, it seems that more and more they look for those answers in places other than by turning to God. We look for meaning and fulfillment through success at business, or accumulating wealth and material possessions. Many are looking for answers, but in all the wrong places.

Instead, we should look to Jesus. Our Lord came to earth that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Yet, we tend to forget the lessons we learned in our religious education classes or at Mass and instead, look for answers on social media and questionable news sources.

The Gospel reading from St. Luke this weekend reminds the disciples, and us, that by our faith we are also witnesses to what God has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. And we receive the commission to be His witnesses through our baptism and initiation into the Church. If we fail to accept this mission, then the world will not hear Christ's message of reconciliation and forgiveness.

We are called to hear His Word, accept His Word, live His Word and share His Word. Are we willing to take on this challenge? Do you have the courage to go forth to live and proclaim the Good News? Start this weekend by coming to church and to a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

- Bishop Gregory Parkes