

Acts 3:1-10

Peter and John were going up to the temple area for the three o'clock hour of prayer.

And a man crippled from birth was carried and placed at the gate of the temple called "the Beautiful Gate" every day to beg for alms from the people who entered the temple.

When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. But Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us."

He paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them.

Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk."

Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong.

He leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God.

When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the one who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with amazement and astonishment at what had happened to him.

Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;

make known among the nations his deeds.

*Sing to him, sing his praise,
proclaim all his wondrous deeds.*

*Glory in his holy name;
rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!
Look to the LORD in his strength;
seek to serve him constantly.*

*You descendants of Abraham, his servants,
sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!
He, the LORD, is our God;
throughout the earth his judgments prevail.*

*He remembers forever his covenant
which he made binding for a thousand generations-
Which he entered into with Abraham
and by his oath to Isaac.*

Luke 24:13-35

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?"

They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to

Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?"

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

*They said to him,
"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him.*

But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his Body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.

Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



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St. Luke speaks of Jesus' resurrection appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

The disciples are dejected because their master and hero had just been crucified on the Friday before. They are broken-hearted and running away.

In their spiritual depression, they do not recognize Jesus as he joins them on the way. They explain to him the story of their loss. Jesus explains how all that had happened had happened according to Scripture. They invite Jesus to dine with them.

St. Luke further records:

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So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the Eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!”

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Now, I don't know about you, but I bet they made it back to Jerusalem in record time. Do you remember that last time you had fantastic news to share? Remember, how anxious you were? You couldn't get there fast enough.

I remember when I was a boy in the middle of winter in the middle of the previous century that I would walk to our nearby lake to check the ice. We had been waiting for weeks for the ice to get thick enough so that we could skate and play hockey.

Well, we had a real good cold snap and so I walked hopefully to the lake. It sure looked thick enough for me! And so, I ran home shouting, “It's ice; it's ice!”

Well, my folks wanted more than an 8-year old's confirmation and so they sent my 12-year old brother to confirm. He came running back, “It's ice; it's ice!” Soon, the whole neighborhood was out on the lake.

If we can get that excited about thick ice, how excited can we get with the news that the crucified Jesus is risen. Through his death, death has been defeated. Through his resurrection, all creation is made anew.

Can we get excited about that? Can you allow your heart to burn with his saving word? Jesus' body was broken in sacrifice for love of us on the cross. Jesus' makes his presence known when the bread is broken in sacrifice for the love of us. We are called to follow and do the same.

In sacrifice, one is filled with His presence and one knows what it is to truly live, now and forever. That is love.

It is traditional on Easter to greet another with “He is risen” with a response of “He is risen indeed.”

Throughout this Octave of Easter, where every day from last Sunday through this Sunday is a little Easter... throughout this Octave, practice your greeting, “He is risen.” Wait a couple seconds for the response and, if not received, add, “He is risen indeed.” It will be either an opportunity to affirm other disciples or an opportunity to evangelize. It’s all joy.

He is risen ~ He is risen indeed

