

With this Gospel of the third Sunday of Easter, we are brought back to the third day after the death of Jesus: two disciples were on the way from Jerusalem where they had witnessed the Passion and the death of their master and for them, it was all over. It was the end of a great hope. Saint Luke specifies that one of them was called Cleophas; he does not say the name of the second. But if we read this Gospel in context, we can say that this second disciple is each of us.

Indeed, we are often this disciple marked by sadness and discouragement. This is what happens when we see our everyday life as a defeat: the defeat of the Gospel for persecuted Christians, for the poor, the excluded, the victims of disease, of violence, of wars, abandonment. During this global pandemic, there are many who suffer from illness and loneliness. This defeat is also when we say that at the point where we are, there is no more hope possible.

But now, on this road to Emmaus, Jesus approaches his people and joins them. They do not recognize him for their eyes are blinded by sadness and disappointment. The same Christ joins us on our roads. He joins our world which is suffering from the Covid 19 pandemic. When all goes bad, he is there. But very often, we too, we do not recognize him because we are somewhere else, too many things are going on and they distract us. And yet, he is still there, ready to listen to us; We can cry out to him our suffering, our disappointment, our sadness.

In this Gospel, we discover another point that is this request of the disciples to Jesus, "Stay with us!" Such a meeting is important and cannot stop like this. The Gospel tells us about a meal, a broken and distributed bread. Then, their eyes open and they recognize him. To recognize the risen Christ present in our lives, we need the look of faith, a faith warmed by the Word of God and the Eucharist. This is how the risen Christ joins us at the heart of our lives and our trials to revive and strengthen our hope.

And when one has recognized and accepted the living Christ, one cannot keep that good news for oneself; we want to shout it out to the world. Even if we can no longer go out, we are called to bear witness, in the eyes of all, to the faith that inspires us. Our testimony must reach all people around the world. May the Lord give us strength and courage for this mission.