

FIRST READING

It was impossible for Jesus to be held by the power of Hades.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:14, 22-24

On the day of Pentecost,
Peter stood with the eleven apostles
and spoke in a loud and clear voice to the crowd:

“Friends and everyone else living in Jerusalem,
listen carefully to what I have to say!”

“Now, listen to what I have to say about Jesus from Nazareth.
God proved that he sent Jesus to you
by having him work miracles, wonders, and signs.
All of you know this.”

“God had already planned and decided
that Jesus would be handed over to you.
So you took him and had evil men put him to death on a cross.”

“But God set him free from death and raised him to life.
Death could not hold him in its power.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

18:1-2, 46 and 50ab

R. (2) I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord God,
and you make me strong.
You are my mighty rock,
my fortress, my protector,
the rock where I am safe,
my shield, my powerful weapon,
and my place of shelter.

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

You are the living Lord!
I will praise you.
You are a mighty rock.
I will honor you
for keeping me safe.
You give me glorious victories to your chosen king.

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

ALLELUIA

See Luke 24:32

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us;
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

They recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 24:13-35

Two of Jesus' disciples were going to the village of Emmaus,
which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.
As they were talking and thinking about what had happened,
Jesus came near and started walking along beside them.
But they did not know who he was.

Jesus asked them, "What were you talking about as you walked along?"

The two of them stood there looking sad and gloomy.
Then the one named Cleopas asked Jesus,
"Are you the only person from Jerusalem
who didn't know what was happening there these last few days?"

"What do you mean?" Jesus asked.

They answered:
"Those things that happened to Jesus from Nazareth.

By what he did and said
 he showed that he was a powerful prophet,
 who pleased God and all the people.
Then the chief priests and our leaders
 had him arrested and sentenced to die on a cross.
We had hoped that he would be the one to set Israel free!

“But it has already been three days since all this happened.
Some women in our group surprised us.
They had gone to the tomb early in the morning,
 but did not find the body of Jesus.
They came back,
 saying that they had seen a vision of angels
 who told them that he is alive.
Some men from our group went to the tomb
 and found it just as the women had said.
But they didn’t see Jesus either.”

Then Jesus asked the two disciples,
“Why can’t you understand?
How can you be so slow to believe all that the prophets said?
Didn’t you know that the Messiah would have to suffer
 before he was given his glory?”

Jesus then explained everything written about himself
 in the Scriptures,
 beginning with the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets.

When the tow of them came near the village where they were going,
 Jesus seemed to be going farther.
They begged him, “Stay with us!
It’s already late, and the sun is going down.”
So Jesus went into the house to stay with them.

After Jesus sat down to eat,
 he took some bread.
He blessed it and broke it.
Then he gave it to them.
At once they knew who he was,
 but he disappeared.

They said to each other,
“When he talked with us along the road
 and explained the Scriptures to us,
 didn’t it warm our hearts?”
So they got right up and returned to Jerusalem.

The two disciples
found the eleven apostles and the others gathered together.
And they learned from the group
that the Lord was really alive and had appeared to Peter.

Then the disciples from Emmaus told what happened on the road
and how they knew he was the Lord
when he broke the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

Third Sunday of Easter

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Please help me to recognize you in myself and others. Please help me to feel your presence and know that you are with me.
In your name, I pray.
Amen

Readings:

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-24
Luke 24:13-35

Reflection:

They say that hindsight is 20/20. This means that often we cannot fully understand an event in our lives until it is over. We experience this all the time. During a soccer game we shoot the ball but it is blocked. Later someone tells us that a teammate was completely open and could have made the shot. We realize that we should have passed the ball instead of shooting it. Another example is when we angrily accuse a friend of doing something and don't listen to their explanation. Later we find out that they were telling us the truth and we should have listened. Often this happens because we were not paying full attention. We are not looking or listening well enough.

The two disciples in today's Gospel experienced this. They walked all day talking with a "stranger" about Jesus. It was not until they sat down to dinner and the stranger broke the bread that they realized who it was. Unfortunately, Jesus disappeared leaving them thinking, "How could we not have known it was Him?" They thought of so many things they could have said and questions they could have asked if they had recognized Him earlier in the day and paid closer attention.

One of the most important parts of today's story is what happened to help them finally recognize Jesus. It was when He broke the bread, just as He had done at the Last Supper. At the Last Supper, Jesus told them to always remember Him when they broke bread and shared wine. It is in these actions that we still experience Jesus' presence. Every time we go to Mass the Priest breaks bread (now we use hosts) and shares it along with the wine. If we pay attention at that part of the Mass we can actually feel Jesus with us. The best part is that we can experience that feeling EVERY time we go to Mass. Next time you are in Church try to listen to the prayers and watch the actions of the Priest. Notice how you feel Jesus with you. Notice how that feeling can make you feel loved, safe and happy, then carry that feeling with you when you leave Church. Let it guide you throughout your day and throughout your life.

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Discussion Questions:

Why don't you think the disciples recognized Jesus?

What happened to make them realize that it was Him?

How do you think they felt when they realized it was Jesus?

What can you do to help yourself pay attention during Mass so you don't miss Jesus?

How do you recognize Jesus in your life?

Activity:

Supplies – Blank Name Tags, Markers – other optional decorating supplies such as glue, glitter, etc.

Give every child a name tag. Ask them to write "Jesus" on it, decorate it and then wear it back to church and throughout the rest of the day to remind themselves that Jesus is with them and in them as well as everyone else.