



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

26 April 2020

Third Sunday of Easter - Tercer Domingo de Pascua

Special Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

Other announcements

- There are no birthdays or anniversaries this coming week
- John's sister, Susan M., serves faithfully as a nurse in Michigan. She has been diagnosed with coronavirus. Prayers for her safety and recovery from all of us at St. Paul.
- Prayers for Rebecca and Jay, pregnant with identical girls (Gloria's niece)
- There will be no Mass next Sunday. Please watch your news outlets carefully. Watch real news and disregard non-news political mouthpiece shows that are not fact-based. Let us plan carefully with health and safety as our concern. Please don't join the rush to return to societal functions, but remember that there is a serious lack of virus testing. You or I just cannot be sure we are not a carrier of the virus. Statistics and procedures are changing every few days.

With regret, we move down the calendar a few more weeks while we wait for our government at federal and state levels to make the wise decisions. Let us look at late May as a possibility to resume, and only with the certainty that we will be safe from spreading the virus.

- Within a few days I will be sending another proposal to St. Paul Council to buy all the material required to record and process a video for weekly Mass. This is what will be our best method to worship and keep our church family together for the time being.

I invite your comment by email to michael@spcath.org . Church members will be contacted by phone, text or email regarding the next Mass date. Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org> .



In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.



We pray

Suscipe - St. Ignatius Loyola

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty,
my memory, my understanding and my whole will.

All that I am and all that I possess, You have given me:

I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will.

Give me only Your love and Your grace;

with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.

† Amen

Confiteor



I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in
my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do.
And I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our
God.

My God, I am sorry for my sins because I have offended you. I
know I should love you above all things. Help me to do penance,
to do better, and to avoid anything that might lead me to sin.
Amen.

Collect

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the
eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Gospel Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Homily

Six years ago in 2014, we were waiting for the contractor to finish the work on our church. We were meeting at a temporary chapel. We gathered in a place not a sanctuary. Still, Jesus was present with us. This year we gather not at all. We are together only in thought and in our hearts. Jesus is present with us.

From Matthew 18: ... *where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

The Holy Spirit is present and we cannot meet and worship as we are used to. The Lord is with us. But that's another Gospel lesson. The Gospel today is no less important. The Road to Emmaus, one of the most important Gospel lessons. (I know, I say that a lot).

Last week I mentioned that we are now in Eastertide. That would be the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. We talk very much about the Great Event of the Resurrection of Jesus

Christ and emphasize this monumental message, on which our faith - the Christian Church faith - is based. So when we celebrate the events of Easter and Pentecost on separate Sundays, 50 days apart, we're celebrating two events that actually happened on the same weekend. Christ died about three o'clock Friday; he was wrapped in burial cloth and placed in his tomb that night. In the wee hours of Sunday Christ is risen.



Our Eastertide message is strong. Part of this reinforcing message is the story of the Road to Emmaus.

When we mention disciples, we generally mean the twelve. Then there were eleven. Then there were twelve again. Who can remember the name of the Apostle that would be named to succeed Judas?... Matthias

To be a disciple of Christ was to follow his teaching and spread the good news like a minister would; to believe, to emulate, to tell the world that Jesus was the light to follow. All of those people would be disciples. In the Acts of the Apostles, in another chapter, it mentions 120 disciples.. or close followers.

I suppose that there were twelve who needed further descriptions that recognized their special devotion and constant presence with Christ. Let's call them Apostles. At the Last Supper they were ordained as the first priests of what would be the Christian church.

In this Gospel of Luke, and on the day Christ is risen, there are two men on the way to visit a village called Emmaus. One of the men is mentioned by name, the other is not. The named one was Cleopas and he was the second person to see Jesus after the resurrection. Mary Magdalene was the first.

Cleopas and his friend meet a man during their 7-mile walk to Emmaus. The risen Jesus Christ joins them while they are walking..."Hello, what are you talking about?"

"What do you think we're talking about? Don't you listen to what everyone's talking about?"
"Nope. What might that be?"

Jesus makes the men unable to know his face. So Cleopas and his friend tell the stranger about the judgment, the beatings, the crucifixion. The tomb that was empty and angels said not to fear... that the Lord was risen from the dead. They did not know that Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene.

Cleopas and his friend were depressed. All that teaching... all the promises they had heard and believed... it was all gone. Their hope was lost.

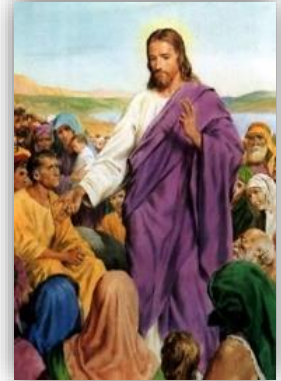
Jesus chastised them... and then gave them a biblical lesson while they walked and talked. "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

What he meant was this... all of it had been necessary. Jesus was not a gladiator who would slay the Romans, evil rabbis and all the enemies of man. The messiah was not a warrior... but an image of love for fellow man. He helped them understand the real meaning of the prophets and that the things that happened were necessary.

Here is why you should remember the Road to Emmaus. Jesus, your Messiah, wants to walk with you... He wants you to remember that walk... the thoughts that should stick in your mind. His presence in the company of people that could not see him as Jesus. Cleopas and his friend did not see Jesus as they walked, but his message hit them and it was awesome.

Does Jesus talk to you? Perhaps you don't recognize him? Is he present in a form in which you may not see him but still learn valuable knowledge?

Be open to the message from all sources. In your religious life, see and hear with your heart as much as your eyes and ears.



Evangelio Lucas 24:13-35

Aquel mismo día, dos de los discípulos se dirigían a un pueblo llamado Emaús, a unos once kilómetros de Jerusalén. Iban hablando de todo lo que había pasado. Mientras conversaban y discutían, Jesús mismo se acercó y comenzó a caminar con ellos. Pero aunque lo veían, algo les impedía darse cuenta de quién era. Jesús les preguntó: —¿De qué van hablando ustedes por el camino? Se detuvieron tristes, y uno de ellos, que se llamaba Cleofás, contestó: —¿Eres tú el único que ha estado alojado en Jerusalén y que no sabe lo que ha pasado allí en estos días? Él les preguntó: —¿Qué ha pasado? Le dijeron: —Lo de Jesús de Nazaret, que era un profeta poderoso en hechos y en palabras delante de Dios y de todo el pueblo; y cómo los jefes de los sacerdotes y nuestras autoridades lo entregaron para que lo condenaran a muerte y lo crucificaran. Nosotros teníamos la esperanza de que él sería el que había de libertar a la nación de Israel. Pero ya hace tres días que pasó todo eso. Aunque algunas de las mujeres que están con nosotros nos han asustado, pues fueron de madrugada al sepulcro, y como no encontraron el cuerpo, volvieron a casa. Y cuentan que unos ángeles se les han aparecido y les han dicho que Jesús vive. Algunos de nuestros compañeros fueron después al sepulcro y lo encontraron tal como las mujeres habían dicho, pero a Jesús no lo vieron. Entonces Jesús les dijo: —¡Qué faltos de comprensión son ustedes y qué lentos para creer todo lo que dijeron los profetas! ¿Acaso no tenía que sufrir el Mesías estas cosas antes de ser glorificado? Luego se puso a explicarles todos los pasajes de las Escrituras que hablaban de él, comenzando por los libros de Moisés y siguiendo por todos los libros de los profetas. Al llegar al pueblo adonde se dirigían, Jesús hizo como que iba a seguir adelante. Pero ellos lo obligaron a quedarse, diciendo: —Quédate con nosotros, porque ya es tarde. Se está haciendo de noche. Jesús entró, pues, para quedarse con ellos. Cuando ya estaban sentados a la mesa, tomó en sus manos el pan, y habiendo dado gracias a Dios, lo partió y se lo dio. En ese momento se les abrieron los ojos y reconocieron a Jesús; pero él desapareció. Y se dijeron el uno al otro: —¿No es verdad que el corazón nos ardía en el pecho cuando nos venía hablando por el camino y nos explicaba las Escrituras? Sin esperar más, se pusieron en camino y volvieron a Jerusalén, donde encontraron reunidos a los once apóstoles y a sus compañeros, que les dijeron: —De veras ha resucitado el Señor, y se le ha aparecido a Simón. Entonces ellos dos les contaron lo que les había pasado en el camino, y cómo reconocieron a Jesús cuando partió el pan.



Homilía

Hace seis años, en 2014, estábamos esperando que el contratista terminara el trabajo en nuestra iglesia. Nos reuníamos en una capilla temporal. Nos reunimos en un lugar que no es un santuario. Aún así, Jesús estuvo presente con nosotros. Este año no nos reunimos en absoluto. Estamos juntos solo en el pensamiento y en nuestros corazones. Jesús está presente con nosotros.

De Mateo 18: ... *donde hay dos o tres reunidos en mi nombre, allí estoy yo en medio de ellos.*



El Espíritu Santo está presente y no podemos encontrarnos y adorar como estamos acostumbrados. El señor está con nosotros. Pero esa es otra lección del Evangelio. El Evangelio de hoy no es menos importante. El camino a Emaús, una de las lecciones más importantes del Evangelio. (Lo sé, lo digo mucho).

La semana pasada mencioné que ahora estamos en Eastertide. Serían los cincuenta días desde el domingo de Pascua hasta el domingo de Pentecostés. Hablamos mucho sobre el Gran Evento de la Resurrección de Jesucristo y enfatizamos este mensaje monumental, en el cual se basa nuestra fe, la fe de la Iglesia Cristiana. Entonces, cuando celebramos los eventos de Pascua y Pentecostés en domingos separados, con 50 días de diferencia, celebramos dos eventos que realmente ocurrieron el mismo fin de semana. Cristo murió alrededor de las tres de la tarde del viernes; fue envuelto en tela de entierro y colocado en su tumba esa noche. En las primeras horas del domingo Cristo resucitó.

Nuestro mensaje de Eastertide es fuerte. Parte de este mensaje de refuerzo es la historia del Camino a Emaús.

Cuando mencionamos discípulos, generalmente nos referimos a los doce. Luego fueron las once. Luego hubo doce de nuevo. ¿Quién puede recordar el nombre del apóstol que sería nombrado para suceder a Judas? ... Matthias

Ser un discípulo de Cristo era seguir sus enseñanzas y difundir las buenas nuevas como lo haría un ministro; creer, emular, decirle al mundo que Jesús era la luz a seguir. Todas esas personas serían discípulos. En los Hechos de los Apóstoles, en otro capítulo, menciona 120 discípulos ... o seguidores cercanos.

Supongo que había doce que necesitaban más descripciones que reconocieran su especial devoción y presencia constante con Cristo. Llamémoslos apóstoles. En la Última Cena fueron ordenados como los primeros sacerdotes de lo que sería la iglesia cristiana.

En este Evangelio de Lucas, y el día en que Cristo resucitó, hay dos hombres en el camino para visitar un pueblo llamado Emaús. Uno de los hombres se menciona por su nombre, el otro no. El nombrado era Cleofas y fue la segunda persona en ver a Jesús después de la resurrección. María Magdalena fue la primera.

Cleopas y su amigo se encuentran con un hombre durante su caminata de 7 millas hacia Emaús. Jesucristo resucitado se une a ellos mientras caminan ... "Hola, ¿de qué estás hablando?"

"¿De qué crees que estamos hablando? ¿No escuchas lo que todos hablan?"
"No, ¿qué podría ser eso?"

Jesús hace que los hombres no puedan conocer su rostro. Entonces Cleofás y su amigo le cuentan al extraño sobre el juicio, las palizas, la crucifixión. La tumba que estaba vacía y los ángeles dijeron que no temieran ... que el Señor había resucitado de entre los muertos. No sabían que Jesús se le había aparecido a María Magdalena.

Cleofás y su amigo estaban deprimidos. Toda esa enseñanza ... todas las promesas que habían escuchado y creído ... todo se había ido. Su esperanza se perdió.



Jesús los castigó ... y luego les dio una lección bíblica mientras caminaban y hablaban. "¡Oh, qué tonto eres! ¡Cuán lento de corazón para creer todo lo que los profetas hablaron! ¿No era necesario que el Cristo sufriera estas cosas y entrara en su gloria?"

Lo que quería decir era esto ... todo había sido necesario. Jesús no era un gladiador que mataría a los romanos, a los rabinos malvados y a todos los enemigos del hombre. El mesías no era un guerrero ... sino una imagen de amor por el prójimo. Los ayudó a comprender el verdadero significado de los profetas y que las cosas que sucedieron eran necesarias.

Aquí es por qué debes recordar el camino a Emaús. Jesús, tu Mesías, quiere caminar contigo ... Él quiere que recuerdes esa caminata ... los pensamientos que deberían quedar en tu mente. Su presencia en compañía de personas que no podían verlo como Jesús. Cleofás y su amigo no vieron a Jesús mientras caminaban, pero su mensaje los golpeó y fue increíble.

¿Jesús te habla? ¿Quizás no lo reconoces? ¿Está presente en una forma en la que no lo veas pero aún así aprendes un conocimiento valioso?

Esté abierto al mensaje de todas las fuentes. En su vida religiosa, vea y escuche con su corazón tanto como sus ojos y oídos

