

Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

“We who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...”

– Hebrews 6:18-19

The Letter to the Hebrews urges us “to seize the hope set before us” – the Risen Christ whom we are celebrating in this extended Easter season. And we are being reminded of our “sure and steadfast anchor” right on time, as we continue to shelter in place. And our Risen Savior is also present to us and walks beside us every day, as we can see in our Gospel this Third Sunday of Easter. Today we revisit the beloved “Road to Emmaus” story from Luke, so masterfully recounted in Tom Key’s rendition from The Cotton Patch Gospel that we featured last week as a bonus. [If you didn’t view that video proclamation or want to see it again, you’re in luck: it’s still available on our live stream page with archived material.]

Down through the centuries, mystics and scholars have seen this post-Resurrection story as a parallel description of Word and Sacrament masked in a simple travel tale.

1. A mysterious stranger meets a distressed pair of travelers.
 2. He playfully asks them what they were talking about.
 3. They say, “Are you the only one who doesn’t know...?”
 4. “What sort of things?” asks the stranger.
 5. He then explains to the travelers the Scriptures that reveal the meaning of all that’s just happened in Jerusalem.
 6. When they arrive in Emmaus, he pretends to walk on by.
 7. They beg him to stay since the day is almost over.
 8. The stranger then
 - a. TAKES the bread,
 - b. BLESSES it,
 - c. BREAKS it and
 - d. GIVES it
- the four verbs in the Eucharistic prayer.

9. And as soon as he does, they recognize him. And he vanishes.

Then the travelers acknowledged two things that just happened:

1. “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”
2. “How he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.”

So the hope is for all of us that our hearts will burn with awe and commitment when Scripture is proclaimed and that we recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread. They say that what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas. But what happens at Mass cannot stay at Mass, but rather can come and be with us all along the ways of our lives.

Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home: Divine Mercy
April 26, 2020

Greeting: In the name of the Father, † and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: Amen

Lord Jesus, you joined your disciples on the road to Emmaus:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you listened to them and heard their concerns:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you revealed yourself in the breaking of the bread:
Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer:

O God of mystery,
out of death you delivered Christ Jesus,
and he walked in hidden glory with his disciples.
Stir up our faith, that our hearts may burn within us
at the sound of his word
and our eyes be opened to recognize him
in the breaking of the bread.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
who lives and reigns with you now and always in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Let the church say – Amen.

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed:“ You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know.

This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him.

But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it.

For David says of him:

*I saw the Lord ever before me,
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.
Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted;
my flesh, too, will dwell in hope,
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption.
You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.*

“My brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day.

But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him

that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption.

God raised this Jesus;
of this we are all witnesses.

Exalted at the right hand of God,
he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured him forth, as you see and hear.”

Responsorial Psalm [Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11]

R. (Lord, you will show us the path of life).

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;
I say to the LORD, "My Lord are you."
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.

R. (Lord, you will show us the path of life).

I bless the LORD who counsels me;
even in the night my heart exhorts me.
I set the LORD ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

R. (Lord, you will show us the path of life).

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

R. (Lord, you will show us the path of life).

You will show me the path to life,
abounding joy in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.

R. (Lord, you will show us the path of life).

Reading 2

1st Letter of Peter 1:17 – 21

Beloved:

If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially
according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence
during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed
from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with
perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of
Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb.

He was known before the foundation of the world
but revealed in the final time for you,
who through him believe in God

who raised him from the dead and gave him glory,
so that your faith and hope are in God.

Alleluia

Luke 24:32

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;
make our hearts burn while you speak to us.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

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 bread.

Reflection Prompts

How do *we* encounter this risen Christ? Where do we find him? Our search is no different from our early Christian brothers and sisters. When they broke bread together in the Eucharist, they realized that he was there. By participating in this holy meal as members of a believing community, we experience that same presence among us. We learn about the power of being with one another in the simplest gestures of life. What could be more universal than breaking bread together — whether at an altar or an ordinary table? We also can feel the presence of the Risen Lord in the proclaimed Scripture.

1. When have our hearts burned within us when we have read a section of the Bible or heard the Word proclaimed? What was moving? Did it call us to respond?
2. In what ways have Bible study fanned the flames of hope in our hearts and in our faith community of Lourdes? Another opportunity for Bible Study is now available at OLL starting this Monday, April 27, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Registration closes today, April 26. Please contact Angela Massingale to sign up: amassingale@lourdesatlanta.org.]
3. When have we recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread? Was it at a particular Mass? Or was it at a memorable meal during which the conversation centered on the Common Good.
4. Once recognized either way – in Word or Meal – did Jesus vanish for us or do we feel his presence walking beside us?
5. Do we see Christ hungry and feed him, thirsty and give him a drink? Do we see Christ ill or in prison and visit him? Do we see Christ in a stranger or a refugee and welcome him? [See Matthew 25:31-46]

Let the discussion wind down and come to a close, and then after a period of centering silence, move into the intercessions followed by singing or reciting the Lord's Prayer.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS – April 26, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Leader: Let us pray for a world in need of the presence of the risen Christ.

Reader:

1. For the Church, that Christians recognize Jesus in the breaking of bread, the breaking open of the Word, and in their personal brokenness. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.** (RESPOND: **Open our eyes, O God.**)
2. For individuals and organizations that provide bread for the hungry or that advocate for the most vulnerable among us. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**
3. For children who are preparing to celebrate their first Communion and now must wait for the return of public worship. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**
4. For an ‘ecological conversion’ of our lives as we embrace our human responsibility to care for the Planet Earth, humanity’s common home as we observe the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**
5. For Christians and Muslims to be true promoters of mutual respect and friendship, especially during this overlapping holy time of Ramadan and Easter. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**
6. For our Stephen Ministry, its leaders, and all Care Team members and receivers here at Lourdes. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**
7. For an end to the Death Penalty and Human Trafficking, especially in Georgia. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**
8. For all must work during this time of quarantine to know that we are grateful and praying for their safety. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**

9. For the more than 26 million people now unemployed in our country, that they be offered the assistance they need to maintain their lives and be rehired when this pandemic lifts. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**
10. For our newly appointed Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer as he prepares to be installed next month, that he may be granted peace and wisdom in this new assignment. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**
11. For all those who are separated from us by infirmity, especially those afflicted by the corona-virus, and for all those living with HIV and AIDS, that they know our community's care for them. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**
12. For all the dead, those who have fallen victim to this corona-virus and all those who died since last Easter — that God may bring them to a haven of rest and peace, especially Blanche Ellington Hill Johnson and Eddie Johnson, Jr., for whom this Mass is being celebrated. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**
13. Please share any intention you have [PAUSE.....] as well as all our own needs. We pray: **Open our eyes, O God.**

Leader: God of abundance: We are grateful for the feast in which Jesus is made known to us. Make us worthy participants in every celebration of the breaking of the bread. Open our hearts to Christ's ongoing presence among us, especially in the poor. We pray in the name of him who is with us always on the road of life. LET THE CHURCH SAY.....AMEN!

Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Protect with loving-kindness, Lord,
the people you have renewed
through the paschal mystery of Christ,
and grant them this reward:

the resurrection of the body to glory everlasting.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LET THE CHURCH SAY: AMEN

Closing Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia,
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia,
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia,
suffer to redeem our loss; Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia,
unto Christ our heavenly king, Alleluia,
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia,
sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pains that he endured, Alleluia,
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia,
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia,
where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

14th century Latin Hymn