



## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter A

### *The Gospel: Luke 24:13-35*

*Jesus himself drew near and walked with them.*

Oh  
Jesus,

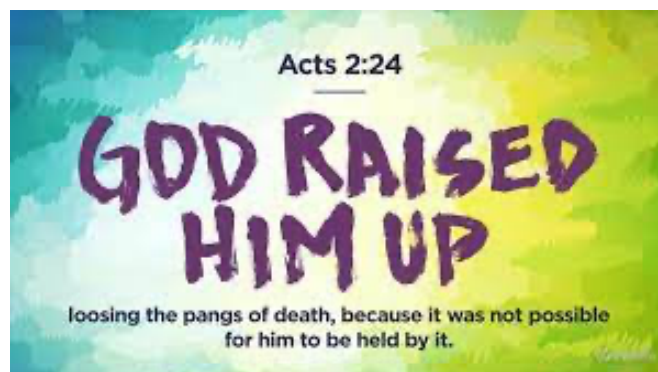
please find us  
wherever we hide.  
Take away our refuges:  
wars, violence, climate change  
and all.

Come walk with us and be with us now.  
Show us the new life that you are.  
Open our eyes and  
make our minds  
and hearts  
blaze.

### The First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-23

*“Jesus received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father  
and poured him forth, as you see and hear.”*

The Spirit proclaimed it,  
through Peter’s,  
brave words,



Let us understand  
and feel your Spirit, O Jesus,

in our neighbors,  
and in ourselves.

Let our lives  
boldly proclaim  
your life, death and  
resurrection

to everyone everywhere.

### The Second Reading 1 Peter 1:17-21

*He was known before the foundation of the world.*



God from the beginning of time  
time through this minute has loved us,

ransomed and transformed us and all creation.

Within this very truth we find our meaning. In this very love we find our hope.

### Reflection:



The two disciples were on  
their way home, husband  
and wife probably. They  
were talking about it,  
debating even, since they  
were quite baffled by the  
things they had witnessed

during their stay in Jerusalem for the great solemnities.

A stranger overtakes them, asks what they are discussing, it surprises them that he knows nothing of what has happened, a pilgrim like themselves, they assume: 'What things, tell me', he asks, tongue in cheek as we (but of course not they) can see.

So they tell him: Jesus the Nazarene, a prophet, was arrested and executed, the one they'd hoped was the one to redeem God's people, the anointed One, — moreover his body had disappeared, the tomb was found empty by some women of their acquaintance, who said they'd seen a vision of angels, declaring he was alive — what could anyone make of all that?

The stranger starts to talk, reproaching them gently. Haven't they read Moses and the Prophets? Haven't they read the Pentateuch, that is to say, the writings of Isaiah and Ezechiel and suchlike? Don't they see the connections? So they just don't get it? 'Slow of heart', he chides them, in a telling phrase

Anyway, he starts explaining, he 'interprets' for them what is in Scripture, things that refer to himself.

By this time they are nearly home. The stranger looks like going on. But their interest has been kindled, their hearts burn within them, as they will say later: 'Stay with us', they say, inviting him to come in, offering him hospitality. That's all he needs — supper with them: so 'when he was at table with them he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them' — and that did it ; the stranger's identity was revealed. It took attending to Scripture and breaking bread with Him to make sense of the facts as they had reported them.

For these disciples, originally, historically, back then, as there is for us now, the One who joins us on the way, intervening in our lives, unexpectedly often, even uninvited, turns out to be the One who makes the story into Good News.

The One who comes into our lives reveals His identity as we put what happened into the context of Scripture passages, and then as we receive the bread and wine that He has blessed.

The bare facts mean nothing. But, as they listened to the stranger's interpretation of passages in Scripture that referred to Himself, then as they sat at table, as He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them, these two disciples began to understand what the facts meant.

For us too, the Paschal Mystery reveals its meaning as we listen to Scripture and take part in the Eucharist — and, as always with our God, vision is mission, seeing Him is His sending us. As He is recognized, He withdraws, leaving these disciples to return to the community in Jerusalem, to get the Church going, so to speak— allowing you and me to take the Good News to whoever we meet, and on whatever road we walk: Christ is Risen! **Fr. Fegus Kerr OP**

