

APRIL 15, 2018



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19

PSALM 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9

1 JOHN 2:1-5A

LUKE 24:35-48

REFLECTION

It can be hard to have faith. In middle school, I became one of the “cool kids” who didn’t have to take the school bus anymore—my parents would pick me up and drop me off at school. When school was out for the day, I would run outside and attempt to patiently wait with the other kids. Every day, as others got picked up before me, I would feel my heart start to sink, and I worried: *Was today the day that Dad would forget me? How would I reach my parents (this was a time before cell phones) to ask them to come and get me?* Minutes later, without fail, I would spot our car turning into the school parking lot. All of my fears and doubts melted away, replaced with joy, love, and gratefulness for my dad. He never once forgot to pick me up, although I found myself doubting and worrying every week. In this Gospel, Jesus appears to his disciples, resurrected! At first, they are startled, terrified, and doubtful. However, when Jesus proves that it is he, they are amazed and filled with joy. We are called, likewise, to be filled with joy in the Risen Christ! This is a challenge today, as we do not have the kind of “proof” that the disciples did—we cannot see, speak with, and sit down to a meal with Christ. Yet Christ asked his disciples, “Why do questions arise in your hearts?” (Luke 24:38). He knew that, even with the proof standing in front of them, they would question and doubt the resurrection. It’s natural to have doubts. But this is why we call it faith and belief—we don’t have all of the answers in front of us, but we come together as believers.

ACTION

This week, consider who you might be able to talk to about your faith. In the Gospel account, Jesus calls his disciples (and through them, all of us!) to live as witnesses to one another as a faith community, and to the world. How might you intentionally live out the call to be a witness for both Catholics and for those of other religions?

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● When have you struggled to have faith in God, others, or yourself? Are there people in your life that you can turn to when you find yourself doubting your faith, or need to ask questions about your faith? Who are these people for you? What are some ways that you can live as a witness to Christ’s life, Death, and Resurrection?