

# Read

Acts of the Apostles  
2:14, 22-33

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

1 Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

## LIVING THE WORD

### Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020



#### REFLECTION

Because of Christ, we have no option but to see things differently. It becomes impossible for us to see others and the world without encountering the Risen Lord. This is especially evident in today's Gospel. At first, the disciples could not distinguish their new traveling companion from any other person journeying from Jerusalem. Even after lengthy conversation the disciples still were unable to recognize the Risen Christ. It was not until Jesus took bread, blessed it and shared it that the travelers could truly see who they were with.

But what do we see? The evangelist Luke brilliantly writes these lines, influenced by the Holy Spirit, of course! Notice which details Luke includes, as well as what is left out. Luke writes that there were two people traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus, including a man named Cleopas. But who is Cleopas traveling with? Is it his wife? his son? his daughter? Are the travelers childhood friends, or did they meet recently? Is one a student and the other a teacher? Are they married? How old are they? What are their professions? What do you see in this story? What do you choose to see? And, perhaps more importantly, what did you not see?



#### ACTION

As you go through today, try to take notice of everything you see. Then, at the end of the day, think about all the things that you did not see or take notice of. As you reflect, think specifically about what God might be calling you to see differently.

*"Were not our hearts  
burning within us  
while he spoke to us  
on the way and opened  
the Scriptures to us?"*



—Luke 24:32

#### ? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Do you think the disciples would have eventually recognized Jesus even if he did not break bread with them? Why?
- ❖ Why does being a follower of Jesus necessitate seeing things differently?



April 26, 2020

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### LECTIONARY #46A

Acts 2:14, 22-33

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

1 Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

## Prepare for the Word

*The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.*

### Leader's Context

This week, we shift to the Gospel according to Luke, but hear another story of the Risen Christ visiting his disciples. The Gospel teaches us how to recognize the Christ who walks with us, to think of Christ as a companion, and encounter in the breaking of the bread.

**Q FOCUS:** *To recognize Christ in the breaking of the bread.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

Display the liturgical calendar and point out the Third Sunday of Easter. This Friday, we celebrate St. Joseph the Worker. Point this date out on the calendar, and ask what the youth know about Joseph. We don't hear much about him in Scripture, but we do know that he was a follower of God's will.

### Church Teaching Connection

In Pope Francis's encyclical *Evangelii gaudium*, he invites all Christians "to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ" (3). We are called to encounter Christ in many ways, such as being Christ for one another. The challenge, however, is often in *recognizing* Christ.

## Hear the Word

*Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.*

### Gospel Acclamation

*Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.*

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.

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean?*

*How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

This is a unique encounter with the Risen Christ that we only find in Luke's account of the Gospel! This reading sets the stage by letting us walk with two disciples who are leaving Jerusalem via the road to Emmaus.

### ► Why are they leaving Jerusalem?

They are discouraged by the terrible events that took place there: the crucifixion of Jesus; the loss of their beloved teacher. And along comes the Risen Christ, yet "their eyes were prevented from recognizing him" (Luke 24:16).

### ► Why don't they recognize Christ, their beloved teacher?

► Can you think of a time in your life when you felt that Christ was not with you?

### ► What makes it difficult to recognize Christ in your daily lives?

Next, Jesus asks the disciples what they are talking about. They describe to him the events of his own death, and the women's incredible discovery of the empty tomb and appearance of the Risen Christ.

### ► Why does Jesus ask them about these happenings in Jerusalem?

He already has the answers; he knows what happened. Perhaps he asked this question in order to set up his response: he breaks open the Word for them, beginning with Moses and the prophets, interpreting Scripture. After this, the disciples arrive at their destination, yet Jesus gives the *impression* that he will continue on the road. However, the journeying disciples beg Jesus, "Stay with us."

### ✧ Why do you think Jesus gave the impression that he was continuing on the road? Was he pretending with the disciples?

Finally, Jesus dines with the disciples. He takes bread, blesses it, and breaks it, giving it to them—and their eyes are opened! They recognize him, but he then vanishes. It is notable that Jesus is made known to these travelers in the breaking of the bread. In our Catholic faith, we too believe that Christ is *really* present when we gather at table and

break bread together in the Mass. This is why the sacrament of the Eucharist is so important—it is the “source and summit of the Christian life” (see *Lumen gentium*, 11)—and why we are encouraged to reverence and respect the bread and wine at Mass; because, after the Eucharistic rites, we believe that it is more than bread and wine—it is the Risen Christ (his glorified body), present with us!

► Do you recognize Christ in the Word, in the Eucharist, in yourself, and in others?

► How is this similar to or different from your experience of dining with your family?

This Gospel story brings to light our ability to encounter Christ in the Word, in the Eucharist, and in walking with one another. Christ accompanies us on our journeys, walks with us, like he did on the road to Emmaus. We too are called to recognize Christ in the other, as well as to strive to be Christ in a special way through our words and actions towards one another. Sometimes, we may have trouble recognizing Christ in the other—much like the two disciples in this narrative. However, the simple act of walking with another is a step towards the call to recognize and be Christ for another.

## Wrapping It Up

*Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 180.*

Have you ever experienced your heart burning like the disciples (see Luke 24:32)?

Where do you most often encounter Christ?

What do you think being Christ for another person looks like?

# Act on the Word

## The Emmaus Walk

*Instruct the youth to break into groups of two (three if absolutely necessary), preferably pairing up with someone whom they do not know very well (if they are comfortable doing so).*

The Emmaus Walk is an activity that encourages us to walk with one another as if they are Christ—in other words, we recognize Christ in the other person. Pairs go for a walk with one another, usually for a minimum of fifteen to twenty minutes. Either instruct youth to accompany each other and simply get to know each other, or you can provide specific questions or topics for the youth to talk about. Some ideas include:

- \* Tell one another about your family.
- \* Future hopes/dreams/occupation.
- \* Share stories of your faith life. (Examples: When have you encountered Jesus Christ? How do you practice your faith?)

After the walk, review the questions listed under the “Wrapping It Up” section. Were their hearts burning as they accompanied one another? Facilitate large group discussion as time allows.

## Closing Prayer

*God of all that is good,  
all that you have provided us can radiate your  
presence if we but see with eyes of faith.  
Help our eyes to be opened and our hearts  
to be burning  
as we come to know you in Word and sacrament,  
in the stranger and in ourselves.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

## For Next Sunday

*To help teens prepare for next Sunday’s Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.*