

Read

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

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

1 John 2:1-5a

Luke 24:35-48

LIVING THE WORD

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021



REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, Luke presents an important aspect of Christian belief: the resurrection of the body. The disciples do not immediately recognize Jesus, so something must be different than the mortal body they had previously known. Even so, something must also be the same. While the wounds from the crucifixion are evident, they no longer cause pain. Fortunately for us, this is not limited to Jesus. At the end of time, we will be united, body and soul, in heaven to eternally praise God. When Jesus eats with the disciples and teaches them, he encourages them to remain strong in their faith because he is the fulfillment of God's promise for salvation.



ACTION

Today's Gospel passage immediately follows Luke's account of the journey to Emmaus. Take some time this week to read and reflect on Luke 20:13-35. Notice the similarities between these two accounts of the appearances of Jesus after the Resurrection. Together, what do they reveal about Jesus and the Resurrection? Why do you think both accounts reference what God revealed in the Old Testament?



"This I Believe (The Creed)"

— Hillsong Worship:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtUNQpu2b7Q>



? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Why does Luke include the details about Jesus eating with his disciples in today's Gospel?
- ❖ How are our lives witnesses of Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection?



April 18, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

LECTIONARY #47B

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

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

1 John 2:1-5a

Luke 24:35-48

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

There is a lot of emotion in today's Gospel reading. From terrific fear to incredible joy, the disciples come to believe that Jesus really has risen from the dead. How convinced are we as followers of the Risen Christ? Would we share our baked fish with him should he come again? Or would we prepare a banquet in his honor? Today's Gospel reminds us to keep our eyes open and our hearts ready to welcome Jesus anytime. We must be open to the Holy Spirit working to deepen our faith. Our encounter with Jesus reconciles us to him and transforms our sorrow to joy.

Q FOCUS: *To open our eyes to Jesus' unconditional love.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

This week, on April 21, we celebrate St. Anselm. St. Anselm was a bishop in eleventh-century England. There was a great deal of conflict between the political leaders and the Church at that time; St. Anselm worked hard to maintain the teachings of the Church. He cared for the poor and taught many people about God's gift of salvation that is given to us through Jesus. He wrote many theological works that was very influential to later theologians. He is considered a Doctor of the Church.

Church Teaching Connection

"Some consider reconciliation as an impossible dream which ideally might become the lever for a true transformation of society. For others, it is to be gained by arduous efforts and therefore a goal to be reached through serious reflection and action. Whatever the case, the longing for sincere and consistent reconciliation is without a shadow of doubt a fundamental driving force in our society, reflecting an irrepressible desire for peace" (*Reconciliatio et paenitentia*, 3).

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 24:35-48

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.

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his

feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

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:

► **What if the Risen Christ appeared to you and your friends? What would your first response be if you saw him walking down the street?**

Throughout Easter Time, we hear many Gospel readings about Jesus' appearances to his disciples. The things he did with them, talking with them, sharing a meal, showing them his wounds, helped them to believe that this was truly Jesus. For those who hadn't yet encountered the Risen Lord, it was hard to accept that he was truly alive.

► **If you were one of those first followers of Jesus, what would it have taken for you to believe he was alive?**

► **We all have doubts about our faith. Where do you find reassurance of God's presence?**

We have the gift of history, that we know what happened and how Christians throughout history have worked to bring the Good News to all the world. We have the Bible and our faith tradition. We have our families and friends who has helped us to grow in the faith. For the disciples, they must see his wounds again in order to believe that he is risen. Jesus helps his disciples to understand how he is the fulfillment of all of God's promises that make up their religious tradition. He assures them that they are witnessing God's faithfulness.

Even though the disciples do not believe at first, their fear eventually turns to joy. Jesus does not admonish them, instead he reminds them of his love for them as written in the Scriptures. He gives them the grace of his love, to cover their fear and doubt. He gives them the peace of his presence and the forgiveness of sins.

► **When have you experienced God's grace in your life?**

Grace can be described as undeserved love. Sometimes our sins get the best of us and we hurt those closest to us. In these times, when our loved ones forgive us, we receive grace. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we receive God's grace of forgiveness of our sins. God also gives us the grace of being in right relationship with him and with others, who have wronged by our actions. In today's Gospel passage, the disciples regain their relationship with Jesus by believing in his Resurrection and triumph over sin and death.

► **How can you share the grace of forgiveness with others?**

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 172.

Jesus appears to the disciples to help them regain their faith.

God's love is given freely.

We can share God's love with others by walking with them in their journey of faith.

Act on the Word

Adoration and Examination of Conscience

You will need to reserve some time in a chapel or the church so that you can have a time of Adoration. You may want to invite the pastor of your parish to come talk about what happens during the Exposition and Benediction, as the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration and reposed once the time of adoration is over. You can also invite him to open and close your time of Adoration with these if the Blessed Sacrament is not already exposed. You will also need to print out handouts for the teens of an examination of conscience. You can find many different ones online or in your parish office.

Jesus is present in our midst and in the liturgy. We believe in his presence in his Body and Blood that we receive in the Eucharist. Help the teens prepare to enter into a time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by discussing briefly how Jesus' presence remains in the Host, which was consecrated at Mass. When we spend time in Adoration, we are spending

time in the presence of Christ. It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how our lives and actions can become a place of encounter with Christ for others as well.

As you prepare for Adoration, give the teens a copy of an examination of conscience that they can review during their time in prayer. Invite teens to spread out throughout the chapel so that they can be fully present to Jesus and not distract themselves or others.

After you have spent several minutes in Adoration, have the priest close with Benediction. If there is no Benediction, have the young people leave the chapel in silence. Once you are back in your gathering space, invite the teens to discuss the experience if they want to or if they have any questions.

Closing Prayer

*God of peace,
you reach out to us when we are unsure
of our faith.*

*Calm our fears as we seek you in our midst
in the breaking of the bread.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

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. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.