

3rd Sunday of Easter- A: Acts 2:14, 22–33, I Peter 1:17–21, Luke 24:13–35: **Risen Christ on the Road of Life**

The Gospel today presents one of the most beautiful resurrection stories in the Bible—the journey of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were leaving Jerusalem with heavy hearts. Their hopes had been shattered by the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. They thought everything was over. But on that very road of disappointment, the Risen Lord walked with them—though they did not recognize Him. This Gospel teaches us a powerful truth: Jesus walks with us even when we do not realize it.

**1. The Road of Disappointment:** The two disciples were discouraged. They said: "We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." Their problem was not that they lost faith completely, but that their expectations about God were different from God's plan. Very often our life is like the road to Emmaus. We walk with: **disappointments, failures, unanswered prayers, confusion about the future.** At such moments we feel that God is absent. But the Gospel reveals something beautiful: when they were walking away from hope, Jesus was walking toward them.

Even when we walk away from God, God walks toward us. No matter what happens in our lives, the risen Jesus is always with us. God is always near to those who seek Him and desire to live in His presence, doing His will.

**2. The Scriptures:** When Jesus joins them, He begins to explain the Scriptures, starting from Moses and all the prophets. He shows them that the suffering of the Messiah was part of God's plan. Slowly their hearts begin to change. They later say: "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the road?" This teaches us an important lesson: The Word of God opens our eyes. Whenever we read the Bible or listen attentively at Mass, Jesus Himself speaks to us. That is why the Church always places the Liturgy of the Word before the Eucharist. First the mind is enlightened, then the eyes are opened.

**3. Breaking of the Bread:** The turning point happens when Jesus sits with them and breaks the bread. At that moment their eyes are opened. The phrase "breaking of bread" refers to the Eucharist. This tells us something profound: We encounter the Risen Christ in a special way in the Eucharist. Just as the disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread, we too recognize Him at the altar. Every Mass is an Emmaus experience: 1. Jesus explains the Scriptures. 2. Jesus breaks the bread. 3. Our eyes are opened.

**4. From Discouragement to Mission:** After recognizing Jesus, the disciples immediately return to Jerusalem—even though it was night. Earlier they were running away, but now they run back with joy. An encounter with the Risen Christ always transforms us. **Fear becomes courage. Sadness becomes joy. Doubt becomes faith.** They become witnesses of the Resurrection.

The story of Emmaus is not only about two disciples long ago. It is our story. Sometimes we walk with confusion and disappointment. But today the Gospel assures us: **Jesus walks with us on the road of life. Jesus speaks to us through the Scriptures. Jesus reveals Himself in the Eucharist.** If we open our hearts like the disciples, we too will say: "Lord, stay with us." And when Christ stays with us, our hearts will burn with faith and our lives will become a witness to the Resurrection. Amen