On this Third Sunday of Easter we journey with Jesus along with the two disciples of Emmaus to be enlightened by his explanation of the Scriptures and strengthened in our faith. Like them, we, too, will feel our hearts afire with love for him. We will recognize him in the breaking of Bread, and experience the urge to share our faith with those who may still be doubting.

Our intimacy with Jesus in this Eucharist should teach us to become compassionate fellow travelers of our brothers and sisters. It should make us what Jesus was for the disciples of Emmaus: people sincerely interested in their plight, ready to listen to them and to share with them our faith in the Resurrection.

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**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**Entrance Antiphon**

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

**Greeting**

P – May grace and peace from God our Father, the Lord Jesus, our fellow traveler, and the Holy Spirit, our Counselor, be with you all!

All – And with your spirit!

**Penitential Act**

P – As we prepare to meet the Risen Lord in this Eucharistic celebration, let us recall our past sins and ask him for pardon and strength. (Pause)

P – For the times we gave in to discouragement and pessimism, and spread these negative feelings to others, Lord, have mercy!

All – Lord, have mercy!

P – For the times we failed to recognize and listen to you present in our neighbor, Christ, have mercy!

All – Christ, have mercy!

P – For the times we failed to strengthen our brothers and sisters through an enthusiastic profession of our faith, Lord, have mercy!

All – Lord, have mercy!

P – May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life!

All – Amen!

**Gloria**

All – Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

**Collect (Opening Prayer)**

P – May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

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.

All – Amen!

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**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**1st Reading** Acts 2:14.22-33

The firm conviction that Jesus was the promised Messiah, and that he had been raised from death by God the Father was the core of Peter’s preaching on the day of Pentecost. In today’s excerpt we hear him proclaim these fundamental truths as the fulfillment of the prophecies of old.
R — A proclamation from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: “You who are Jews, indeed all of you are going through difficult times. Jesus the Nazarene was a prophet, a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him.

But God raised him up, releasing him from the thrones of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it. For David says of him: ‘I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted; my body, too, will dwell in hope, because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

My Brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day. But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption.

God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured him forth, as you see and hear.”

The Word of the Lord!
All — Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 16
R — Lord, you will show us the path of life!

* Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge; I say to the Lord, “My Lord are you.” O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot. R.

* I bless the Lord who counsels me; even in the night my heart exhorts me. I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. R.

* Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices; my body, too, abides in confidence, because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption. R.

* You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever. R.

2nd Reading 1 Pt 1:17-21
The apostle Peter reminds us all of the faithful of his time of the very high price that Jesus Christ paid for their redemption. This reminder is valid even today as we run the risk of forgetting how much the Lord has done for us, too.

R — A proclamation from the First Letter of Peter

Beloved: If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one’s works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning.

Realize that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb.

He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

The Word of the Lord!
All — Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Lk 24:32
All — Alleluia! Alleluia!
Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn while you speak to us.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 24:13-35
The exquisite human sensitivity and patience shown by Jesus toward the disciples of Emmaus are wonderful examples of how we should treat people who are going through difficult times.

P — The Lord be with you!
All — And with your spirit!
P — A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke
All — Glory to you, O Lord!

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. 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, Jesus 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.

The Gospel of the Lord! All – Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith
(Nicene Creed)

All – I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P – With hearts set afire by the Word of God that has just been proclaimed and explained, let us now present our response to it in the form of petitions for the needs of all mankind and our own. Let us pray together:

All – Stay with us, Lord!

C – For the Church, the custodian of God’s Word: May she constantly explain it with clarity so that the minds of people may be enlightened and their hearts motivated to put it into practice. Let us pray! R.

C – For the Holy Father and our Bishops: Through their teaching, may they lead us to an ever-greater awareness of the reality of the Resurrection and its relevance to our lives. Let us pray! R.

C – For all parents and teachers: In imitation of the Risen Christ, may they fill the hearts of their children and pupils with peace, joy, and the desire to become better persons. Let us pray! R.

C – For all those who feel crushed by life’s setbacks and disappointments: May they find in the Risen Christ the enlightenment and encouragement experienced by his two disciples of Emmaus. Let us pray! R.

C – Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (Pause)

Let us pray! R.

P – Lord Jesus, we thank you for having made yourself our fellow traveler in the journey of life. Dispel our doubts; soothe our pains; break your Bread of Life with us until we reach our last destination in heaven, where you live and reign for ever and ever. All – Amen!

Liturgical Prayer

Preparation of the Gifts

P – Pray, brethren . . .

All – May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P – Receive, O Lord, we pray, these offerings of your exultant Church, and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness, grant also that the gifts we bring may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.

Through Christ our Lord.

All – Amen!
Preface of Easter V

P – The Lord be with you!
All – And with your spirit!
P – Lift up your hearts!
All – We lift them up to the Lord!
P – Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
All – It is right and just!

P – It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

By the oblation of his Body, he brought the sacrifices of old to fulfillment in the reality of the Cross and, by commending himself to you for our salvation, showed himself the Priest, the Altar, and the Lamb of sacrifice.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All – Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P – The mystery of faith!
All – We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!

Did you know that the Via Lucis (Trail of Light) is a favorite devotion of Saint John Paul II?

The Trail of Light

A sequel to “The Way of the Cross” to help us realize the importance of the Resurrection in our spiritual life

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CONCLUDING RITES

P – The Lord be with you.
All – And with your spirit!
P – Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. (Pause) May the Risen Lord walk with you and give you wisdom and strength, especially in moments of doubt and weakness.

All – Amen!
P – May the glory of the Risen Lord shine upon you and fill your minds with the lasting radiance of his presence.

All – Amen!
P – May the grace of the Risen Lord fill your hearts with apostolic zeal and make you heralds of his resurrection.

All – Amen!
P – Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!
All – Thanks be to God!

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