

# Year A - 3rd Sunday of Easter

## Luke 24:13-35

*They recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread.*



Two of Jesus' disciples were going to the village of Emmaus, which was about eleven kilometres from Jerusalem. As they were talking and thinking about what had happened, Jesus came near and started walking along beside them. But they did not know who he was. Jesus asked them, "What were you talking about as you walked along?"

The two of them stood there looking sad and gloomy. Then the one named Cleopas asked Jesus, "Are you the only person from Jerusalem who didn't know what was happening there these last few days?"

"What do you mean?" Jesus asked.

They answered: "Those things that happened to Jesus from Nazareth. By what he did and said he showed that he was a powerful prophet, who pleased God and all the people. Then the chief priests and our leaders had him arrested and sentenced to die on a cross. We had hoped that he would be the one to set Israel free! But it has already been three days since all this happened.

Some women in our group surprised us. They had gone to the tomb early in the morning but did not find the body of Jesus. They came back, saying they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. Some men from our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But they didn't see Jesus either."

Then Jesus asked the two disciples, "Why can't you understand? How can you be so slow to believe all that the prophets said? Didn't you know that the Messiah would have to suffer before he was given his glory?" Jesus then explained everything written about himself in the Scriptures, beginning with the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets.

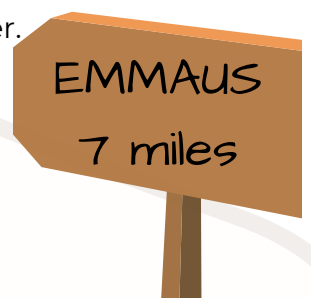
When the two of them came near the village where they were going, Jesus seemed to be going farther. They begged him, "Stay with us! It's already late, and the sun is going down." So Jesus went into the house to stay with them.

After Jesus sat down to eat, he took some bread. He blessed it and broke it. Then he gave it to them. At once they knew who he was, but he disappeared. They said to each other, "When he talked with us along the road and explained the Scriptures to us, didn't it warm our hearts?"

So they got up and returned to Jerusalem.

The two disciples found the eleven apostles and the others gathered together.

And they learned from the group that the Lord was really alive and had appeared to Peter. Then the disciples from Emmaus told what happened on the road and how they knew he was the Lord when he broke the bread.



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## Luke 24:13-35

Recognising Jesus



**Introduction** Today's gospel happens on the same morning that the women went to the tomb and found the stone had been rolled away.

### Message

- Two disciples were travelling along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were confused because the women had come back from Jesus' tomb saying that it was empty.
- Then Jesus started walking with them but they thought he was a stranger.
- Even though Jesus "explained everything written about himself in the Scriptures", they did not recognise him.
- It wasn't until he accepted their offer to stay with them that they recognised Jesus as he blessed, broke and shared bread with them.
- They encountered Jesus, just as we encounter Jesus in the sacrament of the Eucharist.
- In the Liturgy of the Word, we listen to and encounter Jesus in the Scripture readings and the homily.
- In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we share in the breaking of bread and realise that Jesus is in each of us.
- Just as the disciples returned to Jerusalem to share the good news of Jesus' Resurrection with others, at the end of Mass we are sent out to share the Gospel with those we meet.



### Discussion

Begin by checking with the children if there are any words or phrases that they don't understand. Also check if there are any words or phrases that stood out for them

- I wonder what the two disciples were talking about as they walked along the road to Emmaus?
- I wonder what they thought had happened to Jesus? I wonder why they thought he was a stranger? I wonder why Jesus explained everything written about himself in the scriptures?
- I wonder why they recognised him when they shared a meal. What did he do?
- I wonder if you can think of another time Jesus broke, blessed, and shared the bread? Can think of a time when we gather together, listen to stories from the bible, and then share bread (and wine) together?

The disciples rushed back to tell their friends that Jesus is risen. May our words and actions show that we believe that Jesus is risen and is always with us.