

Sermon: April 26, 2020: The Road to Emmaus  
 Readings: Acts 2; 36-41, Psalm 116, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35  
 Focus: God has given us the Gift of His Word in Holy Scripture  
 Function: Read, Listen, and Hear God's Word and Believe!!

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A reflection on God's Holy Word:

*My dear friends, Grace and peace be with you!*

The key point of this gospel message is that Jesus is risen—Jesus is Lord!

- We heard in the gospel that the despair of two people turned to great joy when they realized that **Jesus is risen!**

A secondary point of our gospel reading today, and a very important point, is that all of God's Word, all of Holy Scripture, prophecies to and testifies that Jesus is the Messiah. [In other words, Holy Scripture tells us that Jesus' death and resurrection was always God's plan of redemption for a fallen humanity. It is so true that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.]

So, let's hear more of the context of God's Word.

- It is Sunday afternoon, the third day after the death of Jesus on a cross.
- The news of Jesus' Resurrection was known to only a few people at this point. Most people hadn't heard the good news yet.
- Two followers of Jesus, one named Cleopas and the other traveler unnamed, leave Jerusalem and are traveling seven miles home to Emmaus.

*[Cleopas and this other person were not apostles—they weren't among the 11 disciples in Jesus' inner circle. Other people did know of Christ—the book of Acts say there were about 120 of these people, and they were called followers.]*

A stranger has come alongside them to walk with them.

- We know the stranger was Christ.
- But these two followers didn't know that.
- Filled with sadness, they say to the stranger, "We had hoped that He would be the one to redeem Israel..."

Why didn't Cleopas and the other traveler know right away that it was Christ? Scripture says they were kept from recognizing Him... We are not told why.

But these two followers on the road to Emmaus were given an incredible gift—they heard firsthand from Christ about all the prophecies of Christ found in Holy Scripture.

- This stranger taught them and they heard the Word of God explained: And their hearts burned within them.

Arriving in Emmaus, the stranger is invited and stays for dinner.

- The stranger blesses and breaks the bread...and they recognize Him as Christ.
- And then Christ vanishes from their sight!
- The two immediately go and urgently hurry back the seven miles to Jerusalem to tell the others that they have seen the Lord!!

And we heard it all today in God's Holy Word. And God's Word is powerful!

- My plea to you this week is for you to read your bible.
- Spend time in His Holy Word:
  - Read, Listen, and Hear God's plan of redemption for your life!
  - In Your Bible are God's Word of Salvation!

Great comfort is found in Holy Scripture, as it is told to us there that:

- Jesus is the Messiah!
- Christ forgives us all our sins!
- The forgiveness of sins in Christ is the very heart of the gospel!
  - God has also promised to always be with us—even in times of trouble.

So, my dear friends, Read, Listen, and...

- Hear God's Word, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, be filled with Faith!

And just like you, I look forward to the day, not too far off: when in faith:

- We will worship together, we will hear God's Holy Word from the pulpit, and—at the altar, we will lift up the Cup of Salvation, the Chalice, with the bread and wine, Christ's Body and Blood, given to us in Holy Communion for the forgiveness of our sins!
- We too will recognize Christ in the breaking of the bread.
- And we will be filled with great joy! For...as it is told to us in Holy Scripture:

***...Christ is Risen!***

***He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!***

Amen.