

LUKE 24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, and they stood there dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

COMMENTARY: In a way, this story is perhaps one of the most significant of all those relating to the resurrection in scripture. Belief in the resurrection of Jesus opens our minds to understand what God is doing in our lives.

We do need though to experience the reality of the Risen Jesus. The story affirms the truth that Christ is there walking with us as we journey. Prayer is what helps us know this Presence and then we become fit for ministry. We can only preach what has been born within us.

Liturgy of The Word

14th April, 2024

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER



Lord, let your face shine on us.

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me!

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

ACTS 3:13-15,17-19

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers and sisters, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

COMMENTARY: It is helpful to remember that the Acts of the Apostles is really a continuation of the Gospel of Luke. This section deals though with Apostles acting in the name of Christ. Now is the time to explain the death of Christ whom they crucified, but is now glorified. This is an aspect that is overlooked often when we try and understand what it would have been like for these early preachers. We note that they are not talking about someone in the past, but in the 'now'. The risen Jesus and the earthly Jesus are one and the same.

1 JOHN 2:1-5

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,
but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.
Anyone who says, 'I know him',
and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar,
refusing to admit the truth.
But when anyone does obey what he has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.

COMMENTARY: St John seems very clear that the whole world has been saved. We know that people who believe in Christ can sometimes sink into self-righteousness and imply that non-believers are not saved. When we think this through our thought pattern can become ridiculous. Our task is to ponder the mystery and the magnificence of what Jesus has done.

We can ask what about those who have never had the opportunity to know what we have known? By answering that question we can come to gain a glimpse of how powerful the whole mystery of the Incarnation really is.