



Children's liturgy – Third Sunday of Easter

Welcome: Today we hear how two of the disciples went on a journey to a village called Emmaus. Along the way, they met someone really special, although they didn't recognise him at first. Who do you think it was? Let's find out if you are right...

Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, our light and our guide, as we travel through life open our eyes to recognise you in everyone that we meet. Open our hearts to share generously with each other. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about eleven kilometres from Jerusalem, and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; they saw him, but somehow did not recognize him. Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?"

They stood still, with sad faces. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have been happening there these last few days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "This man was a prophet and was considered by God and by all the people to be powerful in everything he said and did. Our chief priests and rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and he was crucified. And we had hoped that he would be the one who was going to set Israel free! Besides all that, this is now the third day since it happened. Some of the women of our group surprised us; they went at dawn to the tomb, but could not find his body. They came back saying they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. Some of our group went to the tomb and found it exactly as the women had said, but they did not see him."

Then Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are, how slow you are to believe everything the prophets said! Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then to enter his glory?" And Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets.

As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther; but they held him back, saying, "Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting

dark.” So he went in to stay with them. He sat down to eat with them, took the bread, and said the blessing; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, “Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”

They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven disciples gathered together with the others and saying, “The Lord is risen indeed! He has appeared to Simon!”

The two then explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they had recognized the Lord when he broke the bread.

Gospel reflection: What do you remember about this reading?

Two disciples are walking along, on their way to a place called Emmaus. Jesus was crucified two days before and the disciples are confused because the women have just come back from Jesus' tomb saying that it is empty.

Why was Jesus' tomb empty?

The two disciples meet another man along the road and they walk with him. Who do you think this was? But did the disciples recognise him?

The man explains the Scriptures to the disciples so that they can understand that Jesus is risen from the dead.

Do the disciples recognise him now?

Finally the disciples persuade the man to come and eat with them. What happens at the meal?

The man takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it and shares it with the disciples. Suddenly they realise who it is. Why do you think the disciples recognise Jesus now?

Can you think of another time that Jesus broke, blessed and shared the bread?

We are all made in the image of God and Jesus is in each and every person, but often we forget this. We do not take the time to recognise how important and special each person is.

But our eyes can be opened just like the disciples in this story. If we take the time to get to know others, to share food with them, perhaps we will come to see Christ in these people, our brothers and sisters, who are all part of God's family around the world.

How would you behave if you were eating with Jesus? What would you say? How would you treat him?

And so, if Christ is in each of us, how do you think we should treat each other? The same as we would treat Jesus?

It doesn't matter how different we are to someone else, whether someone is tall or short, has brown skin or white skin, is rich or poor, quiet or loud, Jesus is in us all. And so we are called to love one another as we love Jesus.

When you are eating this week, take the time to talk to the people you are with and to think about how Christ is in each and every one of us.

After the meal, the disciples rushed back to tell people what had happened. Let us also by our actions, show that we believe that Jesus is risen and is always with us.

We can do this by treating others as we would wish to be treated, by loving our neighbour as Jesus has asked us and by making the right choices in our lives.

What will you do to show that you believe in Jesus this week?

Activity

Colour in the accompanying illustration of a group of people sharing food together and to write or draw on the back how you will treat others in the coming week.

Write a grace to be used before meals, so that each time you eat or share food, you remember to look for Jesus in the people around you and in those who prepared, grew and produced the food.

Remember to share with your grown ups all that you have heard and thought about in the liturgy. If you have written a grace, say it in the coming week before each meal and to try to do at least one thing in the coming week to show that you are looking for Jesus in all people.

