

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**April 17, 2023**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Acts 2: 14, 22-33**

**Luke 24: 13-35**

**1 Peter 1: 17-21**

**1. Acts 2: 14, 22-33**

- This passage is one of six sermons in Acts. Five are attributed to Peter; one is attributed to Paul. They represent a sample of the early Church's preaching about the death and resurrection of Jesus. The message of these sermons is called the "kerygma," the proclamation of the good news about Jesus the Christ.
- V. 22: Peter's sermon stresses the earthly ministry of Jesus. Jesus was from Nazareth, and he performed powerful miracles that attested to his being sent from God to the people. Peter calls upon this public knowledge.
- V. 23-24: The leaders of the people had Jesus crucified, but this was according to the plan of God. Even though Jesus was killed by crucifixion, God raised him from the dead because the Son of God could not remain captive by death.
- V. 25-31: Peter quotes Psalm 16: 8-11, he says that David (thought to be the author of the psalms) was speaking of the Messiah, Jesus, in this psalm. Although David died, he was a prophet and could discern the plan of God. God promised David that his heir would sit upon the throne. He could see into the future that Jesus, a son of David, would sit upon his throne forever because God would raise him from the dead.
- V. 32-33: Indeed, God did raise Jesus from the dead and exalted him at God's right hand. God poured out the Holy Spirit upon Jesus so that Jesus could pour it out upon us. He calls upon the people to witness the power of the Spirit in the Apostles and in their words.

**2. Luke 24: 13-35**

- One of the most well-known and beloved stories of Luke's Gospel about understanding the Scriptures and experiencing the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- Two disciples walking away from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They are dejected and forlorn about the death of Jesus. They had placed all their hopes in him and now all seems lost.
- Jesus suddenly is walking with them, but they do not recognize him. This is a reoccurring theme in the Resurrection stories: Jesus is not immediately recognizable.
- Jesus asks a question that opens them up to sharing what has happened and how they feel about his death. Jesus certainly knows what has been happening in Jerusalem, but he wants to hear it from them. They tell him what has happened and add how the women went to the tomb and what they reported.

- Jesus interrupts in what seems to be exasperation and impatience with how they do not understand. He begins to explain to them all the Scripture passages that talk about the Messiah.
- As they near the village it appears that Jesus is leaving. They begged him to stay. He agrees and during dinner, he breaks the bread. They recognize him through this Eucharistic action. He departs as quickly as he has come. Another common feature of the Resurrection stories is how Jesus initiates the visits and how he leaves as quickly as he comes. The disciples are not in control of these appearances. Jesus is in control.
- The disciples reflect on their experience. Their hearts were burning within them as he explained the Scripture. They return to Jerusalem and share the news with the other disciples only to learn that the Lord has appeared to them as well. Their common experiences confirm each other.
- Details of the story reflect our own experience: we often do not recognize the presence of Jesus with us; the Lord wants to hear from us what we are feeling and experiencing even though he knows all things; the Lord wants us to understand Scripture; the Breaking of the Bread is a prime time when we recognize the presence of the Risen Lord.
- The story resembles our celebration of the Mass. The introductory rites gather us together with our varied experience; the Liturgy of the Word opens our mind to the understanding of Scripture; the Liturgy of the Eucharist allows us to see the Lord present in the Breaking of the Bread.

### **3. 1 Peter 1: 17-21**

- This first letter of Peter is believed to be a baptismal instruction to the newly baptized about the meaning of their baptism and how they should live their lives as children of God.
- V. 17: If we call upon God who is our Judge as Father, then the conduct of our lives should be respectful of God. Our lives are just a “sojourn” in comparison to our eternal life.
- V. 18-19: We are called to have a deep understanding that our salvation was bought with the precious blood of Jesus.
- V. 20: Jesus existed before all time, but he has been made known in this time for us.
- V. 21: God is the source of our faith and hope because God raised Jesus from the dead and glorified him.