

## A Journey from Grief to Faith

On this Easter Sunday, the Church gives us the beautiful account of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. It is not just a story about two people walking—it is a revelation of how Jesus walks with all of us when we are burdened by sorrow, doubt, or disappointment.

The disciples had witnessed the crucifixion. Their hopes were shattered. They said, “*We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.*” (v. 21)

They could not recognize the very One they were mourning in their disillusionment. Yet Jesus, the Risen Lord, drew near and walked with them.

### Jesus Teaches Before He Reveals

Jesus does not immediately disclose His identity. Instead, He opens their hearts by opening the Scriptures.

“Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.” (v. 27)

As **St. Augustine** explains:

“They did not see Him with their eyes, but they were already hearing Him in their hearts.” (*Sermon 235*)

The Word of God is not merely informative—it is transformative. Jesus reveals that salvation history points to Him: the suffering Messiah who would die and rise for our salvation.

### The Eucharist: Where He is Made Known

Even after the long scriptural explanation, the disciples still do not recognize Jesus—until the breaking of the bread.

“He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.” (vv. 30–31)

This clearly references the **Eucharist**, the sacrament through which the Risen Lord remains truly present to us. As **St. Jerome** observed: “When the bread is broken, then the veil is lifted.” (*Commentary on Matthew*)

The early Church recognized this. **St. Justin Martyr**, in the 2nd century, wrote of the Eucharist:

“We do not receive these as common bread or common drink... but as the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh.”

### A Modern Testimony: From Atheism to Faith

A modern witness to the power of Christ's truth is **Dr. Holly Ordway**, a former atheist and literature professor. Though she dismissed Christianity as a myth, the coherent testimony of the Gospel and the historical witness to the Resurrection led her to faith.

She reflected: "If I believed in reason, I had to face the conclusion that Jesus is who He said He is."

Like the disciples, her journey began in skepticism but ended in recognition—through the Scriptures, the witness of others, and ultimately, the Eucharistic Christ.

## **Our Call This Easter: Hearts That Burn, Feet That Go**

After recognizing Jesus, the disciples said:

*"Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"* (v. 32)

This "burning heart" is the fruit of an encounter with the Risen Lord. And it leads to mission. The disciples returned immediately to Jerusalem to share the Good News.

## **Encounter, Eucharist, Evangelization**

The story of Emmaus is the pattern of every Christian journey:

- We are met in our sorrow.
- We are formed by Scripture.
- We recognize Him in the Eucharist.
- We are sent to proclaim.

This Easter, may we allow Christ to walk with us, form us, and reveal Himself to us—especially in breaking **the bread**.

Let us go forth, with hearts renewed, to proclaim with our lives:

**"The Lord is truly risen!"** (v. 34)

## ***Closing Prayer:***

**Risen Lord Jesus, walk with us as you did with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Open our minds to understand the Scriptures, and open our eyes to see you in the Eucharist. May our hearts burn with your love, and may our lives proclaim your Resurrection. Amen.**