

Theme: "Jesus Never Leaves us Alone"

Text: The Gospel of Luke 24:13-35

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who has brought us together". Amen

The text for meditation for the Third Sunday of Easter is from the Gospel of Luke, which I read before. Let us pray: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, Oh Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." Amen

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My fellow redeemed let us pretend we are walking along side these two disciples that are going to the town of Emmaus. Remember that they are coming from Jerusalem where their teacher has been crucified and their dreams for a better world have gone to the grave together with the cold body of Jesus. And what is worse-the body of Christ has disappeared.

During our journey we ask ourselves, "Why Jesus did not avoid the cross?" "We believed He was the Messiah, why He died in this way?" "And now some women say that angels announced

them that Jesus is alive. But this is simply a desire they lodge in their hearts." "He is not alive. We saw His blood dripping on the ground. We watched as He died on the cross." He is dead. But, why His body has been taken from the grave?"

While we walk we ask ourselves more questions, we have more doubts, and we are deeply afflicted.

My fellow redeemed; the problem with all of us going to Emmaus is that "We are unable to believe for ourselves." This road to Emmaus is the road leading us out of Jerusalem. This road takes us far away from the cross and from the empty tomb. This road takes us far away from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Despite of this reality, do not despair, there is hope. Thanks be to God that He does not leave us alone in order that we; by ourselves create faith. God gives us faith to believe in Him. This is the faith that today this baby has received in her baptism. This is the faith that saves us.

While we walk to Emmaus and in the midst of our grief, sorrow and doubt; a Man appears who gives us the appearance of being in our way. We really did not notice Him when He joined our sad

walk. But unlike us-He does not have the same expression of pain or grief that we have. He walks in the same path than us. He also comes from Jerusalem.

This traveler asks us, **“What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?”** And we stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of us, named Cleopas, answered Him, **“are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”** (Lk 24:17-18)

And When this Man asks us again, **“What things?”** everything collapses again and bring us painful memories, and we answer to this Man, **“Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.”** **“We had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel.”** **It is now the third day since these things happened, and now some women said that they did not find His body. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see.”**

Then we say, “We want to believe, but how is it possible to believe that Jesus is really alive? The facts and the evidences

say otherwise. The Traveler sees each of us with a smile and says, "**O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?**" (Lk 24:25-26)

Dear friends in the Lord; It is what we are regarding spiritual things. We are foolish. We may have the ability to evaluate facts, events, and use our reason to discuss anything on earth, but we do not have understanding about heavenly things. That is why God intervenes in our life, and He has given us a gift. Well actually He gives us two gifts; one gift comes as a result of the other.

In the first place from the beginning to the end, God has talked to us about Jesus. He shows us Jesus through Moses who wrote about Adam, Eve and their fall into sin. He shows us that Jesus, the promise of God, would crush Satan's head (Gen 3:15).

He tells us that Jesus is the cure of our sin as the serpent of bronze-that Moses lifted in a pole- was for the people who looked at it from the bite of snakes in the wilderness (Nu 21:4-9)

And there are more; God sent the prophets who said that Jesus

is the son of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), who suffered under Pontius Pilate (Isa 50:6), was crucified (Isaiah 50:13-53:12), died and rose from the death (Psalm 16:9). This man who walks with us to Emmaus tells us that every word written in the Bible points to Jesus, to the cross, and the empty tomb. He and He alone open and show us the true meaning of the Word of God.

Dear members at Faith and Grace Lutheran Church. Christ walks with us and we follow Him only; no one else. Soon a servant of Christ who has served you for many years will go to another place to do the work that God has called him to do. It is possible that due to his departure you could feel sad, that this congregation will not be the same without him, or you might even think abandoned.

Let me remind you that this is the church of God, not mine, not anyone else. Do not despair! God will continue helping us to proclaim the Risen Christ from this pulpit by me or other preachers of God's Word. No doubt; we will walk through rough path, but Jesus Christ will be at our side till the end. The Word of Jesus gives us true faith in Him. And this is the second gift we receive as foolish walkers. When we hear God speaking to us about His promise of the forgiveness of sins, life, death and

resurrection; our doubt disappear. It is as if "**our hearts burn within us**" when we learn the truth about Jesus. Faith comes to us from God through His Word and this is the faith that saves us.

My friends in Christ, we have reached our destination. It is a small house in the town. It is a place to spend the night. It seems that The Man will continue His journey alone and He will not stay with us. But what this Traveler has sown in us encourages us to turn to Him and cry out: "**Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.**" (v.29) Our hearts are filled with joy when this Traveler tells us that He will stay with us. So we gathered around the table to eat with Him. It is silly, but when we sit around the table with Him, our pain, grief and doubt are gone.

Suddenly, something amazing happens. He takes the bread; breaks it, blesses it, and gives it to us to eat. It is there that we realize that all the way the Risen Christ has walked with us. And as we recognize Him- He departs.

Thank God that Jesus does not leave us wondering. He does not allow us to create in our hearts our own faith. He walked with us

on the road to Emmaus. He came to us with His Word and gave us faith. It is what He does every time we gather to hear His Word. He does not leave us alone to find the strength to live our lives and follow our ways. He came to us on the road to Emmaus and He came to us in the breaking of the bread to give us the faith we need. It is what He does every time we share the bread and celebrate this heavenly banquet.

What do we do now? We live by faith in what He has done for us. Do you doubt? It is possible that at some point in your life you have doubt about your faith. This is not new in this world that we in with all the problems, trials and diseases that surround us. But let me tell you that Jesus is present in our daily walk and He listens us our cry.

Are you afraid of death? Do you feel helpless or hopeless? Do you think you have a weak faith? Perhaps you have all the above. If this happens; go and meet with other people that God brings around the Good News about Jesus. Go where the Bible is proclaimed as the story of God's love for sinful people and where this proclamation is centered in Jesus Christ alone.

Gather yourselves with other Christian believers, examine

yourself about the breaking of bread, and drinking the cup, and firmly believes that His body and blood are present for the forgiveness of your sins. Do not look at yourself or others and try to create faith. Look at Jesus who comes and gives you the gift of faith through His Word and Sacraments.

So then-turn around and come back. If there is something that transforms matter is fire. When we put an element into a fire, then this element is not the same. It is what happens with our hearts in the presence of Jesus. Now we are not the same.

When Jesus was no longer in the table with us at Emmaus, we could not contain the joy given by the grace of God. Regardless of our fatigue, the hazards of travel and how late it was, we ran to share this good news with known and unknown people. We run to tell them, not only what happened to us, but also what Jesus told us on the road and how **“He was known to us in the breaking of the bread.”**

My friends in the Lord; Jesus comes to us through His Word and Sacraments and He tells us what we are and who is He. He tells us that we are sinners, but He also tells us that He loves us, and He forgives our sins in Jesus. And that He is with us guiding us,



strengthening us and enabling us to share this good news with others for His glory only. In Jesus' name. Amen

“The peace of God which surpasses all human understanding keeps your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour”. Amen