

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THEME: **THE EMMAUS EXPERIENCE**

The common encouraging message for our readings today is that no matter what happens in our lives, the risen Lord is always with us. God is always near to those who seek him and who want to live in his presence.

Our first reading today taken from the Acts of the Apostles, presents the beginning of Peter's first public proclamation about Jesus and how God raised him from death, thereby fulfilling the prophecies about the promised Messiah. Peter in the second reading encourages the early Christians to place their faith and hope in God who has saved them by the precious Blood of his Son and who has raised Jesus from the dead.

The Emmaus experience described in today's Gospel reading is the story of a God who will not leave us alone when we are wounded and disappointed. Today's Gospel reading tells us the need for us to remain in contact with our risen Lord through the Eucharist and the Bible.

Our readings today also remind us that our belief in Jesus' presence in the Eucharist should help us to have a better understanding of his presence in the Bible and our worshipping community.

My dear friends in Christ, Jesus meets us on our Emmaus Road. The Risen Lord meets us on the road to our Emmaus in the ordinary experiences of our lives and in the places to which we go when life is too tough for us. When our hopes are shattered, the Emmaus story promises us, however, that the Risen Lord will come to us in unfamiliar ways to support and strengthen us when we least expect him.

We meet Jesus on daily basis in our life's journey. The Church instructs us to listen to Jesus as we come in contact with him through the faithful reading of the Bible and as we experience him through our participation in the Eucharistic celebration where he gives himself to us. When we meet him through the Holy Eucharist, we commune with him. We renew our relationship by praying and reading the Bible. These two ways will enable us to meet the Risen Jesus living in all the people we meet and to do them humble, loving and selfless service.

Like the two disciples on their way to Emmaus, let our hearts burn as we listen to the liturgy of the word, and let us recognize Jesus in the liturgy of the Eucharist. Let us also go with burning zeal to make our experience known to others.