

## The Road to Emmaus (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A)

### Acts 2:14, 22-28—Peter’s First Homily after Pentecost

1. Peter gives his first “homily”
2. Peter gives a summary of the Gospel:
  - a. Jesus’ life of miracles and signs
  - b. Jesus’ passion and crucifixion
  - c. Jesus’ resurrection and ascension into heaven

### Psalm 16—Lord, you will show us the path of life

1. You do not give me up to Sheol (Hebrew name for the realm of the dead)
2. You show me “the path of life”

### 1 Peter 1:17-21—You Were Ransomed with the Precious Blood of Christ

1. Salvation: You were “ransomed” with “the precious blood of Christ”
2. Typology: he was “destined before the foundation of the world” but now “manifest”

### Luke 24:13-35—The Road to Emmaus

1. Emmaus: seven miles outside of Jerusalem
2. Jesus Unrecognizable? “Their eyes were *kept* from recognizing him” (24:16)
3. Cleopas: Jesus’ uncle; husband of Mary, his mother’s “sister” (cf. John 19:25)
4. Irony: “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem” who hasn’t heard...? (!)
5. The Two Disciples: have lost their faith
  - a. “Jesus of Nazareth, *a prophet*”
  - b. “We *had* hoped he was the one to redeem Israel...”
6. Jesus’ Response:
  - a. “Foolish men!”
  - b. “Slow of heart to *believe* all that the prophets have spoken!”
  - c. Back to the Old Testament: “Beginning with Moses and all the prophets...”
  - d. Typology: “he interpreted to them... the things concerning *himself*”
7. The Breaking of the Bread:
  - a. Easter Sunday Evening: “Stay with us...”
  - b. He took, he blessed, he broke, he gave—cf. the Last Supper! (Luke 22)
  - c. “Their eyes were opened and they recognized him...”
  - d. Question: Why does Jesus “vanish”? Why doesn’t he stay?
  - e. He was “*known* to them in *the breaking of the bread*”

### The Eucharistic Liturgy

1. The Liturgy of the Eucharist: “fundamental structure” of “two great parts” (CCC 1346)
  - a. Liturgy of the Word: gathering, readings, homily, intercessions
  - b. Liturgy of the Eucharist: offertory, Eucharistic prayer, communion

## 2. The Mass and the Road to Emmaus:

*“Is this not the same movement as the Paschal meal of the risen Jesus with his disciples?” (CCC 1347)*

### Questions for Discussion and Reflection (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A)

1. Why did Jesus hide himself from the disciples on the Road to Emmaus? Why wouldn't he want them to recognize him?

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2. Why do the disciples only recognize Jesus after he opened the Scriptures and broke the bread? What does this say today to those of us today who go to Mass but don't 'hear' and 'see' him? How can we make each Mass more of an "Emmaus Road" experience?

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3. Why does Jesus begin his bible study on Easter Sunday with the Old Testament? What might we learn from Jesus' method of teaching about the importance of "beginning with Moses and the prophets"?

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### For Further Study

1. Brant Pitre, *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist* (Doubleday, 2011), pp. 196-202. A short discussion of the Road to Emmaus that highlights the connections between the this encounter with the Risen Jesus and the Eucharistic liturgy.
2. John Paul II, Encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (On the Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church) (2003), available at [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/special\\_features/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_20030417\\_ecclesia\\_eucharistia\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/special_features/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_20030417_ecclesia_eucharistia_en.html) John Paul II's last encyclical; a beautiful and rich reflection on the Eucharist and its relationship to Scripture.