The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

Luke 24:35
April 26, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter
You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence. — Acts 2:28

GOD'S PLAN
Saint Peter speaks to us twice today. In the first reading, we hear an excerpt from his sermon on Pentecost; in the second, part of his first letter. Once a frightened, uneducated fisherman who often said just the wrong thing, now Peter is speaking what he knows to be true. Everything Jesus had said now makes sense. His death and rising were all part of God’s plan, and our faith and hope can be centered on God.

Today’s Gospel tells the story of Jesus’ walk to Emmaus with two of the disciples. Frightened, sad, and confused, the two of them don’t recognize Jesus, who tells them what we heard Peter say above: All this had to happen as part of God’s plan. In the end, these disciples recognize Jesus as we are to recognize him—in the breaking of the bread.

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TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading God has raised the crucified Jesus, who now pours forth the Holy Spirit upon us (Acts 2:14, 22-33).
Psalm Lord, you will show us the path of life (Psalm 16).
Second Reading Our faith and hope are in God, who raised Jesus from the dead (1 Peter 1:17-21).
Gospel Through his words and in the breaking of the bread, the risen Christ made himself known to two disciples on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).


READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Tuesday: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59, or, for the memorial, Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: Third Sunday of Easter
Tuesday: St. Peter Chanel; St. Louis Grignon de Montfort
Wednesday: St. Catherine of Siena
Thursday: St. Pius V
Friday: St. Joseph the Worker; First Friday
Saturday: St. Athanasius; First Saturday

STAY WITH US, LORD
Walk with us, Lord, along the road of resurrection! Explain for us, so slow to believe, the things that Scripture says of you. Break the bread of the Eucharist with us whenever we share our lives with our brothers and sisters. Stay with us each time night approaches and the daylight fades in our hearts!


SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA (1347-1380) April 29
Imagine the pope receiving a young woman still in her twenties who addresses him as “my sweet Christ on earth,” then orders: “Get back to Rome where you belong!” Amazingly, Gregory XI complied! Yet this was but one astonishing incident in the extraordinary life of Catherine of Siena, a truly unique medieval woman. Youngest of twenty-five children, Catherine refused marriage and became a Dominican Tertiary at sixteen, cloistering herself at home in contemplative prayer, austere penances, and mystical experiences, culminating in “discal spiritual espousal” to Christ. Then, incarnating the Dominican ideal of “passing on to others the fruits of contemplation,” Catherine left her solitude to care for the poor, nurse the sick, comfort the dying, and bury the dead. Increasingly renowned for converting souls and healing bodies, she was sought after to broker peace during civil wars and Church schisms. All this, and like Jesus, whom she called “my Divine Spouse,” she died at thirty-three! Four hundred letters and her spiritual classic The Dialogue inspired Paul VI to name her, together with Teresa of Avila, the first women Doctors of the Church.

—Peter Scanlon, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
Today’s Gospel has some surprises for the disciples going to Emmaus. The first is that Luke tells us Jesus appeared to them, “but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him” (Luke 24:16). Now I don’t think Jesus was wearing glasses like Clark Kent. More likely, they were prevented by their lack of faith. They knew that Jesus had died, so this man who looked familiar couldn’t be him. All they had heard was that Jesus’ body was missing from the tomb. Luke says they were debating, as if they couldn’t decide what to believe. That leads to the second point. No, they were not surprised that the stranger could quote scripture. Most Jewish men were familiar with the scriptures, but they were amazed at how Jesus explained them. Even the disciples had not thought of them as predicting Jesus’ suffering and death. Yet they seem to know the truth of what Jesus was saying. Their hearts were burning with the fire of the Holy Spirit, who helped them to understand the new meaning of scripture. Their story can help us, too. If you find you are not always able to see Jesus in the people or events of your life, you may need to stretch your faith. One way to do that is to discuss it with others. The two disciples were stretching their faith as they discussed what they had heard. Even better, debate it with someone who doesn’t believe. (Remember to keep it friendly.) You may not convince them to change, but your faith will grow as you learn to express it. Another way to stretch your faith is to read and pray over the scriptures. Ask what God is trying to tell you in them. The disciples on the way to Emmaus began to see how Jesus fulfilled the promises found there. Passages that may have been mysterious before began to become clear when applied to Jesus. Ask God to help you see Jesus in other people. Receive Jesus in Communion as often as you can (at least once a week). Trust him and expect to see Jesus both in the people around you and in the changes that come into your life. The more you look for Jesus, the easier it is to see him.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Emmaus might as well be Brigadoon. We hear of it in this one story—and it’s only in Luke—and then it disappears. The journey to Emmaus is one of the most beloved stories about Jesus, and yet the town is probably “mythical” in the truest sense. Like so much of life, this story is about the journey, not the destination. Running away from Jerusalem and their fears, probably going home in disillusionment, two of Jesus’ disciples encounter a stranger on the road who, like a rabbi, is able to help them understand their experiences using his deep knowledge of scripture. Later, sharing a meal with him, they recognized the stranger as Jesus, and they return to Jerusalem to tell the others. How like our Mass—we hear the scriptures and an explanation of them, we share a meal, and then we go out to tell the good news.

Imagine meeting a stranger, a fellow traveler, who butts into the conversation you’re having with your friend. The two disciples in today’s Gospel are heading to Emmaus, seven miles away from Jerusalem, brokenhearted and disillusioned. It’s the day of Jesus’ resurrection, but no one knew it when these two set out on their journey, maybe going home to resume their pre-Jesus lives because it seemed as if everything was over. In the middle of trying to make sense of the tragedy, some eavesdropping guy asks them about their troubles. After telling their story, the disciples are amazed to find this stranger able to piece together the fragments of the broken image of their master using scripture as the glue. Then it happens—at dinner they recognize Jesus in the breaking of bread, just before he vanishes. With their hearts burning with love and inspiration, they run back to Jerusalem—at night—to tell the others their new story.

The stranger in this story who turns out to be Jesus is reminiscent of the Gospel images of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. He seeks out his “lost sheep” who have strayed from the faith community, and the experience of the risen Lord transforms them into perhaps the very first evangelists, sharing their Good News with their friends back in Jerusalem. Are we transformed by the time we leave Mass? We should be! Our hearts should be burning within us from our experience of Jesus in word and sacrament. Yet how often life breaks our heart and clouds our mind? We stumble toward our own Emmaus, unaware that Jesus is with us. We are privileged to experience Jesus in every Eucharist through the breaking open of scripture and by the breaking of the bread. Like the disciples of the story, that transforming experience can compel us to go forth and tell everyone the Good News.

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St. Paul's Parish will stream Mass for

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

available to view anytime on Sunday, May 3, 2020

Please join us online  
simply follow the link at www.stpaulsf.org

All Mass Intentions, from March 18, 2020 forward, will be rescheduled once our public schedule resumes.

**Please pray for those in our book of the sick and especially for:** Jan Spillane, Marie Doherty, Hannah Nakagome, Joyce Catania, Gene Crowell, Conrado Benitez, Sally Dollard, David Omran, Travis Griffin, Vickie Mahoric, Carl Helms, Jack Olson, Albert Fernandez, Lloyd Pool, Sr. Jeanne Weis, Annette Schubert, Joan Strachan, Rev. Brian Costello

**For all those who have died, and especially for:** Judith Heimer, Edward Mathieux

**LET US PRAY, FOR A SWIFT END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC THAT AFFLICTS OUR WORLD, THAT OUR GOD AND FATHER WILL HEAL THE SICK, STRENGTHEN THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM, AND HELP US ALL TO PERSEVERE IN FAITH.**

**ST. PAUL’S THANKSGIVING RESPONSE TO GOD:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Weekly Collection</th>
<th>$4,113.50</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-line giving March 2020</td>
<td>$8,906.00</td>
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With so much uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 virus, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for your continued support, and to remind you that St. Paul’s Parish does offer an Online Giving option. Making use of current technology and security standards, Online Giving allows you to easily setup recurring contributions.

**Online Giving Benefits**

- Secure and confidential. No need to share payment information with the church office.
- Efficient. Set up direct withdrawals from your checking, savings account or a credit card.
- Simple. Start, stop and change your contributions at any time.
- Convenient. No need to write a check or have cash available.
- Remote flexibility. You can give from virtually anywhere anytime.

*Start giving online today!*

1. Visit [www.stpaulsf.org](http://www.stpaulsf.org) and click on the online giving link.
2. Create an account.
3. Schedule your recurring gifts.

Whichever method you choose, Online Giving or Weekly Offering Envelopes, we are grateful for your continued support and contributions to St. Paul’s Parish.

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**A message from our Pastor:**

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your support & generosity to St. Paul’s Parish through the years. To be sure, your gifts of time, talent, and treasure benefit our parish community, benefit our ministry as a Catholic community, and enhance our ability to respond to the call of Jesus to carry on His work. I look forward to our return as a parish community, and in this difficult time may we keep one another in our collective and personal prayers. May God bless you, keep you safe and healthy.

*Father Mario*