

Gospel Reflection

Today, April 6, God willing, we 32 Early Christian World Pilgrims are in Izmir, ancient Smyrna, on the west coast of Turkey, and are joining you in spirit at the Table of the Eucharist in the Church of St. Polycarp.

The Gospel invites us to journey along with two of Jesus' friends who, unknowingly, were also on a Pilgrimage. The risen Jesus, their companion, set their hearts aflame with his words on the journey, but recognition came only at the end, "in the breaking of bread."

Polycarp, the bishop of Smyrna, was in his eighties when he was called upon to willingly give his life for the sake of Christ and his people, suffering torture and a violent death even as an old man. He was born in the middle of the first century, and was privileged to know personally some of those who were friends and eyewitnesses of Jesus himself. He and his friends, Ignatius of Antioch and Irenaeus of Lyons, give us in their writings a wonderful glimpse into what the faith and life of the early Christians was like.

Today we hope to touch something of the "spirit" of St. Polycarp. One of the phrases most often used to describe a Pilgrimage is "life changing." Please be assured that we remember all of you back at OLA in our prayers on this Pilgrimage, and we ask for yours.

We all walk together on this Pilgrimage of life. May we welcome Jesus as our traveling companion, and may we love and support one another as we are nourished on this journey by the Bread that is his Body and the Wine that is his Blood.

Prepared by Fr. Tom Welbers, with the Early Christian World Pilgrims

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Luke 24:13-35

G S C J C R S A G F T D R
M N S B G L K U H M I S E
S Y I C X K E V S S U T C
E R M N R E K O C E Q E O
M O Y R R I N I P M J H G
M L W K D U P E I A M P N
A G C A F L B T R I S O I
U L O O E C E S U A J R Z
S R O S Z D B Z T R Z P E
B R E A K I N G B R E A D
D E I F I C U R C I A S N
T H I R D D A Y L L N E F
T V H F R E F F U S D W H

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

BREAKING BREAD	CLEOPAS	CRUCIFIED
DISCIPLES	EMMAUS	GLORY
HEARTS BURNING	JESUS	NAZARENE
PROPHETS	RECOGNIZED	ROAD
SCRIPTURES	SUFFER	THIRDDAY

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Third Sunday of Easter
4/6/2008*

*Luke 24:13-35
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: Luke 24:13-35

The Gospel according to John

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came

back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Glossary

Eyes were prevented...: It is a consistent feature of resurrection accounts that Christ is initially unrecognizable.

Breaking of bread: In addition to referencing the Last Supper, this passage indicated that what the disciples saw was the true risen Christ rather than an illusion.

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- Imagine yourself on the journey to Emmaus with the disciples and Jesus. What would you be feeling as the conversation on the road progressed?
- Imagine yourself at the table at the end of the journey. How would you feel as it suddenly dawned on you that this was Jesus, who you thought was dead and gone? What memories of the past would have risen to the surface of your mind?
- Do these feelings and memories relate in any way to your own situation in life?

Closing Prayer

Father in Heaven, author of all truth,
A people once in darkness has listened
to your Word and followed your Son
as he rose from the tomb. Hear the
prayer of this newborn people and
strengthen your Church to answer your
call. May we rise and come forth into
the light of day to stand in your pres-
ence until eternity dawns. We ask this
through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Third Sunday of Easter