

APRIL 30, 2017



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:14, 22-33

PSALM 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

1 PETER 1:17-21

LUKE 24:13-35

REFLECTION

Playing peekaboo with babies builds trust. Babies don't understand that even though Mom is hiding under the blanket, she's still there. That's why they squeal with delight when the blanket is pulled away and Mom "comes back." Eventually they learn that Mom still exists even when she's out of sight. Something similar happens in today's Gospel, known as the Emmaus Story. The moment when the disciples recognize Jesus is like the moment when Mom pulls the blanket away. How surprised they must have been: "Jesus, you're still here!" Jesus had been right there with them all along, and they didn't even know it! Jesus had done something they could relate to: he took the bread, blessed it, broke it and shared it. It was then when they finally saw him for who he really was. And he had been there all along! Before they can wrap their brains around what just happened, Jesus vanishes from their sight. But is Jesus really gone? Not at all; he's kind of like Mom hiding under the blanket. Even though we no longer see Jesus, we trust that he remains present among us. Jesus is present to us through the power of the Holy Spirit. He is present every time we hear Scripture at Mass. He is present whenever two or three are gathered. He is present in Holy Communion. He is present, disguised in "the least among us." Just because we can no longer see Jesus in the flesh doesn't mean that he's not here. Jesus walks with us on our journey as a companion as well. He is risen!

ACTION

The Eucharist is at the center of being Catholic. The Mass that we celebrate today has its roots in what Jesus was doing with the disciples: they listened to the Word of God (Scripture); Jesus explained what the Scripture meant (similar to a homily); he blessed, broke and shared bread, and everyone was transformed (Eucharist). Whenever we break bread together—both at Mass and in our everyday lives—we are shaped a little bit more into Christ's image. Look for opportunities this week to share food with others. Call a local food bank and ask them what kind of food they need most, and then make a donation. Invite someone you've never talked to before to sit with you in the lunchroom. Offer to cook dinner for your family and make sure to say grace before meals.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Have you ever felt confused, alone, or sad, and then realized later that God was with you all along?
- Did you know that the word Eucharist means "to give thanks"? For what are you thankful?