

## Emmaus

### Presence of God

Considering how God looks at me.

### History Luke 24, 13 – 35

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

19 “What things?” he asked.

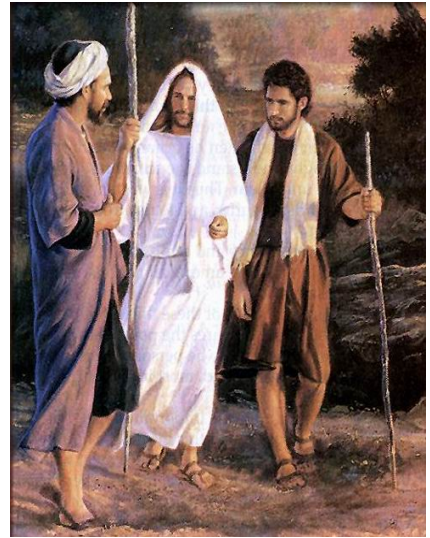
“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.



Petition	<p><i>Lord, may I know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more nearly in this time of triumph and jubilation!</i></p>	
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Contemplation	<p><b>vv 13 – 27 Jesus accompanies two disciples who are sad</b>  <i>During his life, Jesus was followed by a big number of people and he also gathered a special group of followers: his twelve disciples. When Jesus died, they felt frustrated, mad at Jesus because He had made them so many promises that He hadn't been able to keep, because He had failed them and died on the cross. They were very sad and felt they had been conned.</i>  <i>Three days after Jesus' death, two disciples thought: "What are we going to stay in Jerusalem for? We may get killed... Let's go back to our town, our home, and get back our jobs!"</i>  <i>They were walking home, feeling sad and downcast. Jesus did not want them to "get lost", so He appeared to them and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing Him (maybe they didn't even look at Him or they didn't realize it was him because tears clouded their eyes). To break the ice, Jesus asked them: "What are you discussing together, why are you so angry?" And they told him about what had happened to Jesus (without knowing that it was Him). Then, Jesus started to tell them that all the prophets in the Old Testament had spoken that the Savior had to suffer the things Jesus had suffered. Little by little the disciples started to feel better, and their hearts started to burn within them.</i>  <i>Close your eyes and imagine the disciples, depressed, leaving the city where their friends were...</i>  <i>Imagine Jesus approaching and explaining to them (without being recognized) why the Savior had to suffer so much to save us all...</i>  <i>Imagine how their sadness turned into inner peace, warmth, renewed enthusiasm...</i>  <i>Imagine Jesus... who patiently walked with them a long distance to explain all these things to them... Why did Jesus take so much trouble?</i></p>	
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The will of God is that his Son should not lose even one of all those He has given Him.  
 Jesus, like a good shepherd, goes after each sheep so that none gets lost (Jn 6,39). Objectively speaking, none of us is so important if we compare ourselves to mankind, or the universe as a whole; but for God we are so precious that He sacrificed even his own life to prevent us from getting lost.  
 It is like the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus goes after every man so that he can live in communion with God.

	<p><b>vv 28 – 32 The disciples invites the walker to stay</b>  <i>When they approached the village to where they were going, it was getting dark and Jesus continued on as if He were going to go farther; but the disciples urged him to stay with them, because it was dangerous to travel at night.</i>  <i>Before having dinner, Jesus (whom they had not recognized yet) took bread, gave thanks to God his Father, broke it and gave it to them. They ate it and then realized that that bread was Jesus alive. Then their eyes opened but ... Jesus was no longer there but in the Eucharist they had had. Jesus was inside them!</i>  <i>Imagine the house... What did it look like? Imagine Jesus coming in, imagine the disciples laying the table, preparing something to eat. How did Jesus feel? Imagine Jesus praying to the Father, breaking the bread and giving it to them. Imagine you are there with them ... eat Jesus and feel him alive within you.</i></p>	
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God rewards all our good deeds, for example hospitality. When we do something good for one of the least of the people, or for somebody in need, or a pilgrim, we do for God.

	<p><b>vv 33 – 35 The disciples return at once to tell their friends and the community</b>  <i>When they realized who He was, they were bursting with joy JESUS WAS ALIVE! He had not lied to them. He was much more powerful than they had thought: HE WAS GOD!!! He defeated death, He was ALIVE!!</i>  <i>So they returned to Jerusalem at once, they didn't mind it was dark, They returned to tell the other disciples what had happened; and the other disciples told them that Jesus had come to console them too.</i>  <i>Let's imagine these two disciples running back to Jerusalem... When they met the other disciples... What did they do? What did they tell each other? How did they feel?</i></p>	
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Consolation unites us, "increases" our faith in God and in the others. God always thinks about his community — the Church.

**Colloquy**

*Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear him in the silence of our hearts.*

*Imagine you are hugging Jesus who is full of life, light, love, peace, strength, and glory. After a little while, tell him how you feel.*

