

Call to Worship

Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle A

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Our readings today show the profound effect the life of Jesus had on those who knew him. As we listen to the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear and can even feel the excitement in Peter's voice as he recalls all the great wonders and signs that Jesus had performed – and not only that – Peter begins to see and make the connection with the writings of the Hebrew Scriptures - stories that he had probably prayed with and were the source of his belief – are now alive – and applied to Jesus!

By contrast, in the Gospel, two disciples of Jesus are leaving Jerusalem because they are so dejected and discouraged by the death of Jesus, the great prophet in whom they had put their hope to redeem Israel. Jesus meets them on the road, meets them in their discouragement and reminds them of all that the prophets had said concerning the Christ's suffering so as to enter into glory. Slowly they come to recognize Jesus in the sharing of the stories and the breaking of the bread.

As we begin our celebration of the Eucharist, let us bring to this Table all of our joys and all of our discouragements and allow the Risen Christ to touch our hearts with love and with peace. And let us remember in a special way all those who at this Liturgy will receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick – a sacrament of healing, of hope, and of peace.