

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR A May 3-4, 2014 (rewrite of 2002)**

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(Gesture: take bread, lift up in thanksgiving and then dramatically break it.)

Did that remind you of anybody?

In Luke's Gospel story, the two disciples on the road **"came to know the Risen Jesus in the breaking of bread."**

The story also reports that the Risen Jesus disappeared as quickly as he had appeared.

So, in case anyone missed him the first time, let's do it again.

(Gesture: again break the bread.)

For the Christian community, something about this gesture – breaking bread – reveals or, as the Scripture put it, lets us "know" the Risen Jesus.

This rich, treasured story of our tradition reminds those of us who are "the way," who are following Jesus but who are distant in both time and place from those lucky first disciples...

...this story reminds us that we, too, can still experience the same Risen Jesus every time we share the scriptures and break the bread together.

That is to say: every single Sunday (note that this story happened on the Lord's Day) when we companions on this journey of faith come together to reflect on the Scriptures and to share the Bread and Cup, we too are experiencing the presence of the One Raised from the Dead.

Every Sunday we hear him **"explain the scriptures to us"** and **"our hearts burn within us"** as our drooping faith is rejuvenated, revived.

And every Sunday when we break the bread and pour out the cup we get enough of a glimpse of him to sustain us through another week on the journey.

In Luke's story the two disciples are discussing and debating along their way, trying to understand the disappointment and despair of their lives.

The Greek word for this "discussing and debating" is *homileo* – the same root word that describes what we are doing at this moment: homily, "discussing and debating" the meaning of God's word.

In the midst of their "*homileo*," the Risen Jesus came and talked with the companions on the journey and opens the Scriptures to their understanding.

The Good News of the Gospel today is that as we ponder the Word and our struggle to remain a faith-driven and hope-fill people in the midst of a difficult and demanding world, the Risen Jesus walks with us and speaks to our hearts.

As we "homileo" about how to cope with the violence and warfare, with the abysmal poverty of so many and glut of riches of others, with the sexual abuse and selfishness of our contemporary world, the Spirit of the Risen Jesus is present and conversing with us.

Then, as if this weren't wonder enough, that same Lord Jesus stays with us, sits down at table with us: he takes the bread, says the blessing, breaks the bread and gives it to us.

It is in this breaking of bread where we – each Sunday – get a brief but real glimpse of his risen presence.

(Gesture: break the bread again.)

When the bread is broken for each of us to eat, when we see it ripped apart, we see his Body being broken, ripped apart for us.

When we see the whole being separated into many parts - each one different and unique and critical to the whole – we see the Risen Christ present in the many parts of our whole:

Present differently in each one of us, uniquely acting in our various personalities and occupations and lives, and yet with each one of us critical to the whole Body.

Similarly,

(Gesture: pour flagon to the last drop)

When we see the wine poured out, down to the last drop, we see him pouring out the last drop of his blood for us all.

When we see a common cup serving each one of us, we see One Risen Jesus as the source of joy and peace and life for us all.

So did you see him in the breaking of the bread and pouring of the cup?

Just to be sure, let's do it one more time – at the Lord's Table.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS: May 3-4, 2014

Presider: We join the universal Church in prayer for the needs of the world this day.

Reader: This Lord's Day may the church throughout the world know the Risen Jesus in the breaking of the bread and sharing of the Word, we pray:

May our own parish community find the Risen Jesus in our weekly gathering for Word and Sacrament; may this Presence strengthen us in moments of disappointment and despair, we pray:

For all those in our midst charged with preaching the Word of God: may have imagination, creativity and holiness for their task, we pray:

May Christ bless our children who will receive (6pm mass have received) him the Eucharist for the first time today; may he also bless their parents and families, we pray:

For all our sick family and parish members, for any among who are carrying heavy burdens today, and for any who need our prayerful support in their families or jobs, we pray:

May our beloved dead rest in God's mercy, especially our longtime member Florence Orsini who died this past week, and the particular intention of today's liturgy:

5pm _____ we pray:

8:30 _____ we pray:

11am _____ we pray:

6pm: _____ we pray:

Now we pray in silence for our personal needs as well as those in our Parish Book of Intercessions.

Presider: Father, your Son Jesus is present to us in Word and Sacrament. Thus, we make our prayer to you with him and in his name for he is our Risen Lord for ever and ever. Amen.