

April 30, 2017

3rd Sunday of Easter

Seek guidance to stay on the path of life.

Acts 2:14, 22-23

Psalm 16:1-2, 5-11

1Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

In the first reading Peter reminds his listeners of Jesus, commended by God, mighty in deeds, wonders, and signs, but crucified by the crowd. In prophecy David foresaw that Jesus is raised from the dead and is exalted at God's right hand side. Jesus now pours forth the Holy Spirit unto believers.

The prayer of the Psalmist acknowledges God as his refuge, his Lord, the One who counsels him, and asks for guidance in finding and staying on the path of life. He is confident that by setting the Lord before him, he shall never be disturbed and will never be abandoned.

In the second reading Peter tells us to invoke the Father who judges impartially and has ransomed us from our futile conduct. We are called to conduct ourselves with reverence and our faith and hope are in Jesus who was revealed by the Father in this, our final time.

In the Gospel Jesus meets several disciples on the road to Emmaus but they are prevented from recognizing him. He listens to what they are saying and then points out

that they are slow to believe the prophets and clarifies the Scriptures that indicate the Messiah needed to suffer, die, and be raised. They are so impressed with this "stranger" that they invite him to stay for supper. When he breaks bread with them they recognize him but he then vanishes from their sight. Returning to Jerusalem they tell the other disciples of this experience and in turn are told that an angel appeared to the women and that the Lord has appeared to Simon.



The Father judges impartially, and  
Jesus guides us in seeing our futile conduct  
When he pours out the Holy Spirit.

Peter can refer to life on earth as sojourning because it is not the final destination. This point is brought home to us in the resurrection of Jesus when Peter points to the signs and wonders Jesus performed indicating he is more than a mortal person. We too are called to action that flows from our faith convictions and action is itself the fruit of faith and knowledge. There will come a day when we will be asked not just what we have said or what we have wished for, but, "What have we done?" We need to abandon futility and conduct our lives in reverence to all that is holy and good and remember that actions speak louder than words.

*"The Lord appeared to two disciples who were walking along the road, speaking about him, although, in fact, they did not believe in him. But he did not show them a face they could recognize; the Lord was thus revealing, on the outside, to the eyes of their body, what they were seeing inside, in the eyes of the heart. Deep inside, they loved and they doubted, and so the Lord was present to them on the outside, but he was not showing them who he was. While they were speaking about him, he revealed his presence to them, but since they doubted him, he hid the sight of his face from them." (Pope St Gregory homily on Emmaus)*