

April 15, 2018

3rd Sunday of Easter

Lord, open our hearts to the many ways we come to know you!

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Psalm 4:2,4,7-9

1 John 2:1-5a

Luke 24:35-48

Peter describes how God has glorified Jesus, the Holy and Righteous One. The author of life was raised from the dead, and all believers are to repent so that personal sins may be wiped away. Peter understands how his listeners had acted out of ignorance, as did their leaders, but now is the time for repentance and conversion.

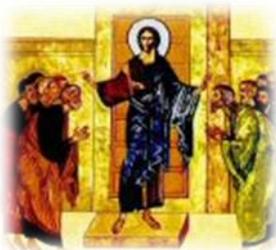
The Psalmist pleads with God to have his prayers answered and be relieved from his suffering and distress. It is the Lord who puts gladness into his heart and brings security into his household so that peaceful sleep comes in the night. He pleads for the light of the Lord's countenance to shine upon all of us.

John pleads with the faithful not to commit sin, but if it does happen they are to remember that Jesus is the Advocate to the Father and is the expiation for the sins of even the whole of humanity. All are to keep the commandments and to only pretend to do so makes one a liar. The love of God is perfected in all that keep his statutes.

Jesus appeared in the midst of the disciples and tells them to look at his hands and feet and realize it is not a ghost they are seeing but he is in the flesh, is hungry and asks for food. He explains to them that everything written had to be fulfilled and he opens their minds to a greater understanding of Scriptures. Christ needed to suffer, die, and be raised on the third day. Repentance for the forgiveness of sins is to be preached in his name, and the disciples are his witnesses.

The Father answers our prayers  
Through the advocacy of Jesus and  
The Spirit of Truth guides us onto right paths.

The readings today indicate there are a variety of ways we can come to know Jesus. It happens through the breaking of the bread, Scripture, the witness of others, redemptive suffering, helping and loving others, and when we truly repent for our sins. We are to trust in the Lord, as the psalmist does, in knowing there will be an answer to our prayers.



After Jesus appeared to the disciples the experience of Christianity has persisted through the centuries. Jesus Christ, the Living Lord and Savior, is the immortal One through whom we have advocacy to the Heavenly Father; humanity is being led into the life that it should live!

The mission of Jesus is explained by the testimony of his first disciples who were able to testify to others on their personal experiences with him and this has brought great enlightenment to Christians. After his ascent to the Father their testimony involved the sphere of unseen reality and countless millions now follow Jesus into this unseen world and find a responsive reality there. Today the Christian witness is determined to follow Jesus' way at any cost constantly reaching out to the Living Lord who is the source of their faith and strength. When is the last time that you have shared your Christian experience with another?

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