

Here's a text if you've only a minute

Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him.
(First Reading)

Through him (Christ) you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God. (Second Reading)

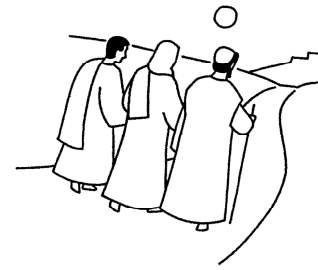
You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory? (The Gospel)

Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us? (The Gospel)

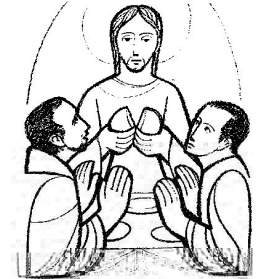
They recognised him at the Breaking of Bread. (The Gospel)

Looking towards next week

*What does next week hold for me and how do I feel
God may be calling me?
And so, what do I want to ask of God
for myself and for others?*



3rd Sunday
of
Easter
Year A
8th May
2011



He is with us today in the Breaking of Bread

2nd Opening Prayer

Let us pray in confident peace and Easter hope:

Father in heaven, author of all truth,
a people once in darkness has listened to your word
and followed your Son as he rose from the tomb.

Hear the prayer of this new-born people
and strengthen your Church to answer your call.
May we rise and come forth into the light of day
to stand in your presence until eternity dawns.

I begin my prayer with faith that God is present in me and for me. I ask to be open to him and to his desires for me and to respond lovingly and generously.

I read the prayer, pondering the desires and truths it reveals and making these my own. I thank God for the gift of faith in the Risen Christ and pray that his light may dispel the darkness and lack of peace in our world.

I pray for the Church that we all, the People of God and our Leaders, may trust the workings of the Holy Spirit in the signs of our times and discern how to witness to God's faithful love and mercy today.

The Second Reading: First Letter of St. Peter 1 :17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home.

Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down, was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake.

Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God.

I read the passage slowly, reflecting on the truth that, like a good parent, the Father has no favourites, and yet I am aware of all the love and goodness God has shown to me. I thank him that I am his child and I rejoice to belong to him

I turn to Christ who became man for me and endured the Cross to teach me how to love. I ask him for the grace not to waste, through selfishness and sin, the precious gift of salvation he has won for me by shedding his blood.

I am humbled by the truth that through him I have the gift of faith in God and, in awe, I marvel that 'God raised him from the dead and gave him glory' so that we/I 'would have faith and hope in God.'

I end by praying as Jesus taught us: Our Father

Part of the Gospel Luke 24: 13-35

Two of the Disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus... talking about all that had happened. Now as they talked... Jesus himself came up and walked by their side but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' ... 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered, 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did and how our leaders ... had him crucified. and this is not all. Some women... went to the tomb... and came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive.'

Jesus said to them 'You foolish men! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter his glory?' Then, starting with Moses ... he explained ... the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village ... they pressed him to stay with them. So he went in; now while he was with them at table, he took bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them.

And their eyes were opened and they recognised him but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem... Then they told ... what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

I may choose to make this prayer an imaginative contemplation, walking with the Disciples, hearing their concerns and then, like them, listening to the Stranger, longing for him to stay with me.

At the Inn I join them at the table as he takes bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to us. Immediately our eyes are opened and we recognise the Stranger is **Jesus, risen from the dead**. He disappears from our sight but **our hearts** burn with love and joy.

I stay with Jesus in my prayer and tell him all that is in my heart.