

THEME Today we have a Mass within a Mass. Christ proclaims the Scriptures to the disciples on the Emmaus road and then breaks bread with them. Our Eucharist today makes present the same risen Lord in Word and Sacrament.

PENITENTIAL RITE

- 'So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy.' Forgive us Lord, for our depression and despair. **Lord have mercy.**
- 'Through Christ you now have faith in God.' Forgive us Lord, when we do not trust in you. **Christ have mercy.**
- 'They recognised Christ in the breaking of the bread.' Forgive us Lord, when we celebrate Mass with our lips but not with our hearts **Lord have mercy.**

OPENING PRAYER - *Let us pray that Christ will give us a share in the glory of His unending life.*

God, our Father, may we look forward with hope to our resurrection, for you have made us your sons and daughters and restored the joy of our youth.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading – Acts 2 v. 14, 22-28 *Filled with the Spirit, Peter addresses the crowds in Jerusalem. He tells them about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and how all this was a result of God's plan*

'On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

"I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy; my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence."

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he

has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 15 © Show us, Lord, the path of Life.

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| 1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' © | 3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. © |
| 2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. © | 4. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. © |

Second Reading – 1 Peter 1 v. 17-21. *In this passage St Peter tells us that since heaven is our home with God, we are now living away from that home. God will judge us on our behaviour, for we are redeemed through the death of Jesus.*

'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.'

Gospel – Luke 24 v. 13-35. *The early Christian community recognised Jesus in the proclamation of the Word and in the breaking of the bread. In Luke's story we hear how this happens to the disciples of Jesus.*

'Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, 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?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by

since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, '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?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the 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. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.'

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: God reveals Himself in Christ, the Lord made Flesh. We are in touch with Him when we listen to the Scriptures and share in the breaking of the bread. United with Him, here and now, let us pray to the Father.

Reader: Let us pray that the Church will remain faithful to its trust in the Risen Lord, to the Scriptures and the Sacraments and like the first generation of Christians, continue to share His gifts with others.

Let us pray that your Church may spread the hope and joy of the Risen Christ in areas struck by poverty, violence and oppression. We pray especially for doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and those who support them and for all key workers.

Let us pray for those who have lost hope and have no awareness of the power of the resurrection in their lives and for any who are tempted to suicide; that, through their sorrow, they may be helped to experience the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Father, send your spirit of comfort on all who mourn. We pray for the recently bereaved, especially those who are unable to take part in funeral rites.

Let us pray for all who carry the burden of sickness daily; that they may be made whole. We pray for all suffering in the current pandemic and also for Peter Wyatt, Billy Carter, Michael Denny, Janice Ross, Jessica Mercer, Rebecca Pipe, Nichola Berry, Jenny Mayes, Joan Hill and Elizabeth Routledge

Let us pray for the departed, that through the resurrection of Jesus they may come to know the peace of their time home in heaven. We pray especially for Sylvia Welham, Gloria Calver, Lionel Bruce, Stan Clements, Alice Curson, Fr John Bishop, May Barker, Ethel Hurford, Catherine Kitchen and Anna Rodlief whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Sharing in Our Lady's Easter joy, let us pray - **Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

SILENCE

All: Father, increase your Easter joy within us by helping us discover the limitless richness of the scriptures. Nourish our minds with what we hear and read and strengthen us through the healing of the Bread of eternal life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Lord, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from you.

EASTER ANGELUS (Regina Coeli). *Joy to thee O Queen of Heaven. Alleluia!*
He whom thou wast meet to bear. Alleluia!
As he promised hath arisen. Alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer. Alleluia!
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!
R. for the Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia! †

Fr Philip Writes: A Thought for this Week:

Three things in the Emmaus story contributed to the recognition of Jesus: the Broken Hearts of the disciples, the Broken Word of the Scriptures and the Broken Bread of the Eucharist. Jesus does not force Himself on us; He waits for an invitation from us. We can use our free will to invite Him into our lives or let Him pass us by.

Mass Readings this week

MONDAY: Acts 6 v 8-15. John 6 v 22-29. Intention: Peace of the world

TUESDAY: Acts 7 v 51-8 v 1. John 6 v 30-35. Int: the departed – April Anniversaries

WED: St Catherine of Siena (feast). 1 John 1 v 5-2v2. Matt.11 v 25-30.

Intention: all people of Europe

THUR: St Pius V. Acts 6 v 26-40; John 6 v 44-51. Int: Bishops Norman, Martin & Mike

FRI: St Joseph the Worker. Acts 9 v 1-20. Matt 13 v 54-58. Intention: all craftsmen

SAT: St Athanasius. Acts 9 v 31-42. John 6 v 60-69.

Int: Forward in Faith & The Society

Next Sunday: FOURTH OF EASTERTIDE – 'GOOD SHEPHERD' SUNDAY.

Acts 2 v. 14, 36-41; 1 Peter 2 v. 20-25; John 10 v 1-10