

**(Food for thought)**

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35



## **“On the Road – Lost & Found”**

The resurrection appearances of Jesus are filled with surprises and mystifying details. His friends do not recognize Him; He appears through locked doors; He has broken out of a tomb, but carries the wounds of His dying. He speaks of peace and forgiveness. He promises the gift of His Spirit. He sends His disciples to change the world. But things really didn't turn out the way the disciples had planned. They had travelled with Jesus for almost three years, had observed many wonderful things and probably expected more of a "return on their investment." With all his miracles and victorious confrontations against the religious authorities, with the crowds flocking to him, he looked like a winner to all of those who followed him. They

had secretly hoped to sit in glory with him when he came into his earthly kingdom.

Every Resurrection appearance story is accompanied by a mandate, a call – a challenge to commitment. Through his death and resurrection, Christ is asking if we are willing to carry on in the "real world" of human beings, according to his teachings, his understanding of God, his love for people.

Like the travellers on the road to Emmaus, each of us has been called to witness to Christ's call to Life. Each of us has been nourished in the breaking of the bread, and each has been sent to feed one another - to nourish and be nourished through community. We are each challenged to proclaim to the world that our God is a God who takes life with absolute seriousness, a God who enters fully into suffering and death and does not allow it the final victory. We do this just by living our daily lives as best we can: by raising our children, by teaching, listening, comforting

and encouraging others, guiding and defending life.

The Gospel stories are about real issues; they speak to what's on our minds and what troubles our hearts. They strengthen us when we doubt. These stories are not only for the good days and celebrations of our lives. They are also for when we face darkness, when life feels threatening, when the darkness seems overpowering and we are afraid of losing our bearings. God speaks to us through these stories, they are our light in darkness, our compass for when we feel lost.

Let us then listen, learn and begin anew so that we may be effective witnesses to the presence of the Risen Lord in our world.

