

## Third Sunday of Easter April 19, 2026



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus:

The Gospel today presents one of the most beautiful resurrection stories...the journey of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. It is not just their journey; it is our journey too.

These disciples were walking away from Jerusalem...away from hope, away from faith, away from their community. Their hearts were filled with sadness, confusion, and disappointment. They had believed in Jesus, but now everything seemed lost.

How often do we find ourselves like these disciples?

There was a true story of a man who lost his job after 20 years of service. He said, I felt like my whole life collapsed. I stopped praying, stopped going to church. I walked away from everything I once believed in.

This is exactly what the disciples were doing...walking away because their expectations were shattered.

Sometimes we also say: Why did God allow this? Why is my prayer not answered? Where is God in my suffering?

Like them, we walk away... but the beautiful truth is: even when we walk away from God, He walks with us.

The Gospel says Jesus came near and walked with them, but they did not recognize Him. This reminds us that God is present even when we don't feel Him.

A hospital chaplain once shared a story. A woman who lost her child said, Father, I never saw God during my suffering.

The priest gently asked, who were the people who stayed with you, comforted you, supported you? She replied, my neighbors, my family, some strangers...The priest smiled and said, that was Christ walking with you.

My dear friends, Jesus walks with us in disguise: In a friend who listens, in a stranger who helps, in a word of encouragement, In the quiet strength we receive to carry on.

As they walked, Jesus explained the Scriptures to them. Later they said, Were not our hearts burning within us? This is the power of God's Word.

There is a real example of a young man who was addicted and lost direction in life. One day, he randomly opened the Bible and read a verse: Matthew 28:20 "I am with you always." That single line changed his life. He said, "It felt like God was speaking directly to me."

When we listen to Scripture: Our confusion becomes clarity, our sadness turns into hope  
Our hearts begin to burn again.

Finally, they recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread. This is the Eucharist. Every Mass is Emmaus: We come with burdens and struggles, we listen to the Word, and we meet Jesus in the Eucharist. Yet many times, like the disciples, we fail to recognize Him.

A child once asked his mother, Is Jesus really present in the Eucharist?  
The mother replied, if we truly believed it, we would never miss Mass.

My dear brothers and sisters, Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist...waiting to be recognized. After recognizing Jesus, the disciples immediately returned to Jerusalem. The same people who were: Sad → became joyful, confused → became convinced  
Running away → started running back. An encounter with the risen Christ always changes us.

A powerful example is a man who survived a serious accident. He said, "I realized God gave me a second life. Now I want to live for others." And he began serving the poor.

The message today is simple but powerful:

- **When you feel lost → Jesus walks with you**
- **When you feel confused → Jesus speaks to you**
- **When you feel empty → Jesus feeds you**
- **When you encounter Him → your life changes**

So today let us ask: Do I recognize Jesus' walking with me? Do I listen to His Word? Do I truly experience Him in the Eucharist? Let us pray for the grace to say like the disciples: Stay with us, Lord.

And may our hearts burn again with faith, hope, and love. **Amen.**