



Christ in Our Neighborhood

Prayer

Commentary

Lord Jesus, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free! May we celebrate your rising from the dead with joy, knowing that we shall follow you through death into life! We ask this in your Holy name. Amen.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

3rd Sunday of Easter

Peter, emboldened by the Holy Spirit, speaks of the prophet David who believed in God's promise, that He would raise up an heir who would one day sit on David's throne and that God would not abandon his soul to the netherworld. In this way, Peter says, David foresaw the resurrection of Christ.

Commentary

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

A common fact is that the number one fear people have, even more than death, is public speaking. The fear would likely be greater if it was before a large crowd, let's say 3,000 – 5,000 people who were already hostile. Adding to the fact that most of these people know that you and your friends were hiding in fear just a few weeks prior. You didn't have time to prepare, and you don't have notes.

We experience Christ's resurrection power in our Baptism when we receive the Holy Spirit – the same Spirit who empowered Peter. We, too, will one day rise from the dead to stand before the throne of God. On that day, we will be held accountable for our actions. We should center our faith, worship and praise in God and live according to the way shown from the teachings of Scripture, loving our enemies and trusting in the Lord. Asking the Holy Spirit to guide us and empower us to do God's will is one way to help prepare us for the day of judgement.

Peter appeals to his audience twice to listen carefully to his words. Even Jesus, the most gifted speaker in history, pressed His audiences to take care how they listened. It is likely Peter remembered well the lesson taught to him by Jesus, "do not worry about what you are to say, the Holy Spirit will speak through you". Likewise, the Holy Spirit is with us when we need to speak, if we are open to Him.

Question

In what way has the recent experience of Lent and this new experience of Easter allowed me to notice the actions of the Holy Spirit in my life?

Peter expounded through the prophet Joel and the Psalms that our God of mercy provides recourse if we call upon His name, and His name is Jesus.

Question

Recall a time when the Holy Spirit spoke through you. Is Jesus revealed by what you say and do?

How will you bring someone back to Church today? Visit dphx.org/christ-in-our-neighborhood for free Scripture reflections for small groups. Then, invite a friend, family member or neighbor to join you and break open God's Word together!

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Commentary

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Although we all think we know Jesus, sometimes we don't recognize Him. Even Cleopas and the other

unnamed disciple—unnamed perhaps to represent us as fellow travelers—thought they knew Jesus from spending time with Him. But did they really listen to His Word? They had given up hope from the events that had transpired because of what they presumed about Jesus. They actually lived with Jesus but didn't understand who or what He was.

Jesus takes the time to explain Scripture to them and their hearts were on fire. When we understand something, it's easy to get excited about it, but first we need to understand. The two disciples had open minds and the ability to transform discouragement to hearts on fire.

He stayed with them because they asked. Then Jesus revealed Himself

in the breaking of the bread. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we too can grow and understand more about Jesus, if only we ask. When we truly recognize Him, not only in the Eucharist but how He works in our lives, we can't help but be on fire and want to share this news with everyone.

Question

Do we recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread or is it just some ritual we repeat?

When is the last time our heart was on fire?

This Week's Task

Take someone (friend, neighbor, even a family member) to Mass who hasn't been in a long time. Allow them to enjoy the Real Presence of Christ in the breaking of the Bread.

Group Prayer

The group is invited to sing the following"

*Open my eyes, Lord
Help me to see your face
Open my eyes, Lord
Help me to see*

*Open my ears, Lord
Help me to hear your voice
Open my ears, Lord
Help me to hear*

*Open my heart, Lord
Help me to love like you
Open my heart, Lord
Help me to love*

Psalm

Response: Alleluia.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;
I say to the LORD, "My Lord are you."
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.

Alleluia.

I bless the LORD who counsels me;
even in the night my heart exhorts me.
I set the LORD ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

Alleluia.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

Alleluia.

You will show me the path to life,
abounding joy in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever

Alleluia.

Conclude with an Our Father