

GOSPEL MESSAGE

April 19, 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Way of Resurrection

In some Bibles the subheading for today's gospel reading is "The Road to Emmaus." Although this is a suitable description, we could also call it "The Way to Emmaus." On the road or way to Emmaus, two disciples encounter the risen Christ. Notice that as Jesus accompanies them, he meets them where they are, holds their heartache, questions their assumptions, challenges their perspectives, and ultimately guides them deep into God's word. All this happens on the way!

Only one of the two companions on the way with Jesus is named: Cleopas. Why is the other disciple's identity a mystery? Luke may be using a clever storytelling device, one designed for readers to see themselves as part of the narrative. In that case, you may be the unnamed disciple in this Jesus story! (Aren't we all disciples on the way, accompanied by Jesus on the journey of Easter faith?)

Eventually, after Jesus blesses and breaks bread at a meal, the two disciples finally recognize him. Their hearts are kindled with faith and activated by the word of God encountered on the way with Jesus. It is no surprise that they hit the road again, racing back to Jerusalem to tell the others what just happened on the way.

From the very beginning, the way of faith in Christ has been a movement of resurrection promise. This movement has never stopped sharing the grace and love of God with everyone it encounters along the way. We are called to join this movement, with all our heartaches, assumptions, and misunderstandings. We are not people with all the answers, but sojourners or pilgrims on the way.

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