

TRINITY NEWS

Easter III Ultimate Destiny in Unfolding Stories

Luke 24:13-35

The Gospel of Luke has a journey motif from 9:51 until the Cross. The journey does not end when Jesus weeps over Jerusalem at Luke 19:41-44 or when he cleanses the Temple (Luke 19:45 - 48). That journey would end at the Temple, the focal point of the Holy in Judaism. When Jesus walked out of the Temple he began another stage in his pilgrimage. This journey theme is picked up again at the Last Supper and all the events of the Passion of Christ in the last week of his life. The burdened and suffering Jesus struggling along the original Via Dolorosa has haunted the human imagination since it happened. Jesus takes his last steps on the way to the Cross. Then we are invited to accompany two disciples as they walk into history. Like the woman who anointed Jesus at Bethany, this story would be 'told in memory' of them wherever the Gospel is proclaimed (cf. Mark 14:9). The Risen One walks with them, breaks open the Scriptures for them, and breaks bread with them. What a connection!

The human journey is a dangerous and lonely one. The people on the Emmaus road were not without fear of bandits or thugs, any more than Palestinians or Jews in the same area today. The people of Jesus' day relied more on oral communication than written communication. We rely hugely on visual communication flashed in an instant from the far corners of the globe. The human journey is in our face every day.

Luke tells the story of the Emmaus road as a means of transmitting unfolding destinies. Anyone who 'collides' with the Spirit of God is shaken and humbled by it. It is like having a heavy fall and then trying to recover from it. The moment of the fall remains imprinted on our minds. Many make bold claims about what they believe and there is a lot of current talk about our own truth and being our own God. There is little evidence of the connection of either in human conduct. The loudest voices make the biggest spiritual claims and the silent ones fall under the weight of knowing God. We are very sure of God and ourselves at times in the morning, and then in the evening the dark shadows of the soul can overwhelm us. The only God who can satisfy us is the one who comes to us and breaks bread with us, a God who is as wounded as we are and yet constrained by compassion to listen to our conversations. This God can absorb our rantings about life and transmute them into treasured hopes that rise beyond our minds and faces to our better acts, despite everything that happens to us.

Entering the story of the Emmaus Walk is like walking into a house that is really as high as the sky and as deep as the ocean. We find there someone who breaks bread into little pieces and puts the fragments into our hands. It is a fragment of our nurture and our whole story. It is like the words sometimes added after the fraction of bread here at the Eucharist, “Come and hold in your hands and touch with your lips a love that we can never fully comprehend.” This is an invitation to the continuation of the Emmaus walk and a heart-comfort wherever we go. Life is indeed “dangerous and lonely”. But fear does not have the last word and loneliness should never fully occupy the human heart, because a residue of hope remains that can expand despite pockets of emptiness.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

May 7, Wednesday.

Bible Study, 10:00am

Bible Study, 7:30pm, Parish Office

May 9, Friday.

- Deacon Melvin's ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests, 10:00am

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a,51-60; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10