

LIVING FAITH

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 19, 2026



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY -- Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

The Gospel that we heard proclaimed today is still happening today. Jesus still walks with us—his modern-day disciples—today. He continues to accompany us through all of the events and circumstances of our lives. He is beside us all the time. Like those early disciples, we sometimes do not recognize him, or we catch glimpses. And Jesus continues to feed us, in the Eucharist, through His Body and Blood, through the kindness of others, and in many, many ways. We pray for eyes that are open to recognizing Jesus, and ears that are open to hearing his voice.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Why do you think the disciples were so slow to recognize the Risen Jesus?
- Would you recognize Jesus if you met Him on the street today?
- How does Jesus show Himself in our lives today?

Road to Emmaus Coloring Page



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THE JOURNEY TO EMMAUS OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS



1. JESUS SEEKS US

In the Gospel story of the journey to Emmaus, the two travellers didn't invite Jesus to join them; He just appeared and walked with them.



2. JESUS WALKS WITH US

Just as Jesus walked along with the travellers in the Emmaus story, Jesus walks alongside us, too. Often, He is unseen, or unrecognized, but He is surely there.

3. JESUS OPENS OUR EYES

Sometimes, we are given a moment of insight. It's as if our eyes are opened, and we just know that Jesus has been with us all along. These moments can be fleeting, and we just get glimpses, but they are enough to sustain us.



4. JESUS REVEALS HIMSELF

Once we recognize Jesus, and know that He is with us, we are never the same. We may not always feel His presence, but we know that He is with us on our journey.

5. JESUS SENDS US OUT AS MISSIONARIES

The travellers did not stay in Emmaus, but went right back to Jerusalem to tell the others the Good News. They had moved from being disciples to being missionaries. Once we really know Jesus, we can't do anything else but proclaim His Good News through our actions and our words.



IN THE CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK FEAST OF ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST APRIL 25

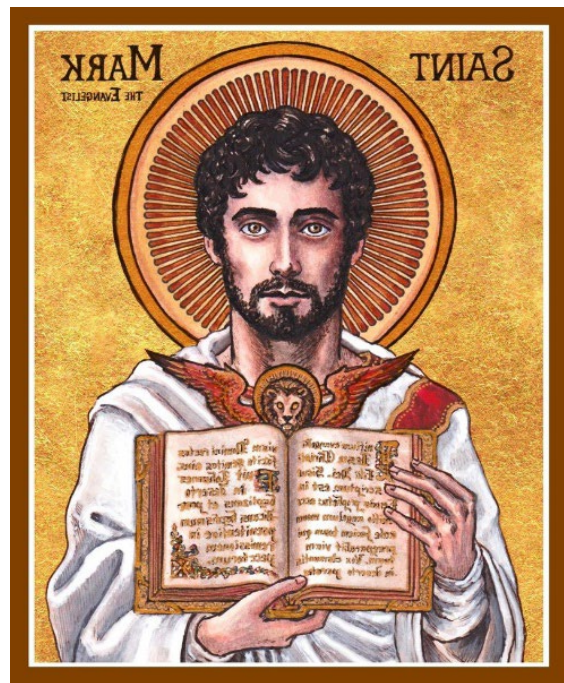
Much of what we know about St. Mark, the author of the Second Gospel, comes largely from the New Testament and early Christian traditions. Mark the Evangelist is believed to be the 'John Mark' referred to in the Acts of the Apostles, the history of the early Church found in the Canon of the New Testament. He was the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12) whose home became a meeting place for the apostles. He is also the cousin of St. Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), a Levite and a Cypriot.

Mark joined Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey to Antioch in 44 A.D. When the group reached Cyprus, Christian tradition holds that Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. When Paul was first imprisoned, Mark, who was at the time in Rome with plans of visiting Asia Minor, visited him as one of his trusted companions (Col 4:10).

Mark's hopes to visit Asia Minor were most likely carried out, because during Paul's second captivity and just before his martyrdom, Paul wrote to Timothy at Ephesus advising him to "take Mark and bring him with you [to Rome], for he is profitable to me for the ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11). If Mark returned to Rome at this time, he was probably there when Paul was martyred.

According to Christian tradition, Mark also held a close relationship with St. Peter, who referred to Mark as 'his son' in his letter addressed to a number of churches in Asia Minor (1 Peter 5:13). Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus and Papias all indicate that Mark was an interpreter for Peter.

St. Mark lived for years in Alexandria, where he died as a martyr while being dragged through the streets.



**O God, who raised up Saint
Mark,
your Evangelist,
and endowed him
with the grace to preach the
Gospel,
grant, we pray,
that we may so profit from his
teaching
as to follow faithfully in the
footsteps of Christ.**

**Who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever.**

*Prayer from the Liturgy of the
Hours for the Feast of St. Mark.*

