

Third Sunday of Easter

Gospel – Adapted from Luke 24:35-48

While the Apostles were speaking about everything that had happened, Jesus appeared to them and said, “Peace be with you.” But they were terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do you doubt? Look at my hands and feet. Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones like I do.” He showed them his hands and feet, and they were filled with joy. Jesus asked, “Do you have anything to eat?” They gave him a piece of baked fish and he ate it in front of them.

He said to them, “I told you that everything written about me in the law and the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He said to them, “It was written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”



Reflection

Today's Gospel took place on the evening of the first Easter. Imagine the day the Apostles were having. Two days earlier, Jesus was crucified, and they had spent the past two days in fear that, being followers of Jesus, the same thing might happen to them. They were also filled with sorrow for what happened to Jesus; shame for abandoning Him when He was arrested; and probably confusion.

Then, on Sunday morning, they began hearing rumors that Jesus was alive. Some women found the tomb empty, Mary Magdalene had spoken to Jesus, Peter and John had seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, but no Jesus. Now, the Apostles were just hearing how two disciples met a man as they were traveling to the village of Emmaus, and when they got there, they found it was Jesus, but He vanished. As they were discussing these things, Jesus appeared to them, even though they were hidden in a locked room.

The Apostles thought maybe it was a ghost, Jesus's Spirit appearing to them. But Jesus wanted them to understand what the Resurrection really is, so He showed them His Body, and even ate in front of them, to prove that He had really risen from the dead, Body and Soul.

The Apostles became filled with joy, and immediately, Jesus began talking about their mission. It is as though Jesus was saying to them, "You see that I have risen from the dead; now, here's what you must do about it." They received the joy of the Resurrection; it demands action.

That is His message to us, as well. We have received the joy of the risen Lord. Death has been defeated. We are children of God, with a heavenly destiny. What are we going to do about it? Jesus told the Apostles that the Good News must be shared with everyone, and people must be set free from their sins, to become children of God. That mission didn't end with the Apostles. It is the mission of Jesus's Church until the end of time. That means it is our mission. We are each given our own role to play, and we must fulfill it.



Discussion Questions

Imagine you were there, in the room with the Apostles, that first Easter. How do you think you would have reacted?

What can you do, to help with the Church's mission of spreading the Good News about Jesus to everyone?

Vocabulary

- **Apostles** - Jesus's closest followers. They were eyewitnesses to Jesus and became the first priests of the Catholic Church. The bishops are their successors.
- **Easter Season** - We celebrate the Resurrection on Easter, and the Easter season lasts for 50 days.
- **Evangelization** - Spreading the Gospel. Sharing the Good News with others, and leading them to Jesus.
- **Resurrection** - Jesus rising from the dead on the third day from His crucifixion

Fill in the blanks

- 1 The _____ had trouble believing in the Resurrection at first.
- 2 One of the most important tasks of the Church is _____, bringing Jesus to people who do not know Him yet.

3 The _____ of Jesus is His greatest miracle.

4 We celebrate the _____ for 50 days, even longer than Lent.

Quiz

1 What did Jesus first say when He appeared to the Apostles?

- A** "Peace be with you"
- B** "I'm hungry"
- C** "Touch my hands"
- D** "Where is Peter?"

2 When Jesus appeared, what did the Apostles think they were seeing at first?

- A** A ghost
- B** Their imaginations
- C** A hologram
- D** Pontius Pilate

3 To whom does Jesus tell the Apostles His Name will be preached?

- A** The Jews
- B** Jerusalem
- C** All the nations
- D** The Apostles' families

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A A N V L L B X A S V J P G N
M P O F Z A J L B L S T P T N
B O I A O O B W R O I L W O Q
N S T W Y R R A B N L X I D C
G T A Y T K G B N L I T O K S
Y L Z V P M A I U H C V U F I
E E I T T S H Z V E L K Z R I
N S L W O E N I R E E X X R V
U X E Z F C T R L B N B U T Z
Y G G D W O U Y X F R E J J V
E D N E A S T E R S E A S O N
Q V A A E I B V S P P J W S B
S Q V R E R I N O W D O M F Z
Q Q E S U P W Z M F F W I H J
I I I J K D Z J R Y G W Q U L

APOSTLES

EASTER SEASON

EVANGELIZATION

FORGIVENESS

JOY

RESURRECTION

Answers:

Fill in the blanks

- 1** Apostles
- 2** Evangelization
- 3** Resurrection
- 4** Easter season

Quiz

- 1** A – "Peace be with you"
- 2** A – A ghost
- 3** C – All the nations



