

Wednesday of the Octave of Easter “Emmaus or Jerusalem”  
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The recount of the Road to Emmaus in Luke’s Gospel is amazing, to say the least. It is one of those Gospel passages I could go on and talk about for a good hour, but I won’t subject you to that this morning. It is a lot easier for people to “walk” out of church these days than before. And so, we can focus on just the main points.

First, the disciples were going the wrong way. Jerusalem was to their backs. They had given up. And when you give up in life, especially when you give up on faith, Jesus could be standing right in front of you and you wouldn’t recognize him.

Second, you can see how mass was celebrated back then because after Jesus points out everything they needed to know about him in Scripture (think Liturgy of the Word), Jesus sits down at table for the breaking of the bread (think Liturgy of the Eucharist). So yes, mass today looks a lot like what mass looked like in the first century.

Third, Jesus disappeared after making himself visible in the breaking of the bread. Why was this the case? This was because the Early Church believed that Jesus Christ is fully present in the Eucharist. Anyone who tells you different hasn’t read the bible.

But finally, at the end of the story, the disciples turn around and return to Peter and the others, they turn around and return to the Apostolic Church. This is what the Eucharist can do for us, even if it is only spiritual communion these days because of the pandemic. Everything about Jesus points us to the Apostolic Church that he founded.

What can this mean for us today? Easter was just a few days ago....have we strayed at all in the practice of the faith? If Jesus appeared to us today, would we recognize him? Do we see Jesus in the breaking of the bread, that is to say, do we believe in the Eucharist? Is our life oriented towards Jerusalem or toward Emmaus? There is so much to contemplate about this Gospel reading. Even though I could go on and on, perhaps it is better that you prayerfully enter into this Gospel reading yourself. Whatever walk we find ourselves, if we keep our eyes open, Jesus will accompany us along the way.