

HOMILY 3RD SUN EASTER YRB 2018

I am going to do something a little different today during the homily. We are going to pray a form of prayer called *lectio divina*. Today we are going to use the Gospel reading. This form of *Lectio divina* is using your imagination to put yourself in the Scripture passage, to go beyond the words that are written, and to discern what God is telling you through the passage. It does not matter so much what scripture scholars say the passage means, it is how it speaks to you. You can do this yourself in your personal prayer time using any Scripture reading. The weekend Gospel reading is a good one to use. I am going to guide you through that today. I am going to read the Gospel passage, retell the story in my own words using my own imagination, and then ask some questions. If you hear something that resonates with you stay with that in prayer and block out what I am saying. I will then give you a couple of minutes of quiet prayer at the end. So, relax, close your eyes, put your feet flat on the floor and your hands in your lap. Relax your arms and legs, relax your neck, unclench your jaw, relax and listen. [Read the Gospel].

Did you hear what Clopas and his friend said, that they saw Jesus on the way home from Jerusalem? How is that possible? We know that Jesus is dead. They couldn't have seen him. But they do sound pretty convincing. Maybe it is just wishful thinking. But we know that Jesus is dead. All that we had hoped for in Jesus is finished. I would like to hang on to the hope, but that is just not realistic. We have to face reality. Who is that who just appeared in the room? How did he get in? The door is locked and we are standing right next to the door. No one opened it. He just said "Peace be with you." That is something that Jesus said all of the time, but we know Jesus is dead. This is all getting too creepy for me. Is this a ghost? I have never seen a ghost. I am not sure what they look like. He is asking us "Why are you troubled?" Is he kidding? It does look like Jesus, but we know that is not possible. Look, he is showing us his hands and his feet. He has the wounds from the crucifixion. But I

don't think it is really Jesus. He's asking for something to eat. I am not sure, but I do not think ghosts can eat. Wow, he is real and I think it must be Jesus. This is amazing! I am so overjoyed that we still have hope for the future! He is telling us to think about everything he taught us about in the Scriptures. It is all starting to make more sense to me now. He's telling us to repent, to change our lives. He's telling us that we have to go out and tell the whole world about him. I guess we can't stay locked in this room forever. Since Jesus is alive and with us, I think we can go out and do what he is asking us to do!

Do you see the evidence of the risen Jesus in your life? When you are going through a time of struggle or suffering and it just kind of works out for you, do you think that was a coincidence? Do you think you did that on your own? Do you believe that Jesus is with you caring for you always? What would you be able to do if you worked with Jesus every day? What is Jesus calling you to do today? Do you need to spend more time reading the Gospels so you can get to know him better? So you need to spend more time listening to him in prayer to find out what he is calling you to do? Do you have some bad habits that you can change with Jesus? Is there something you have been afraid to do, but should go ahead and try with the help of Jesus? Do you need to tell others about Jesus? Does being connected with Jesus in your life make a big difference? Do you need to let others know?