

COLORFUL SCRIPTURE

April 14, 2024

We, too, are Jesus' Witnesses

Based on: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

By Marianne Couture

Earlier in Luke's Gospel, two of the disciples walked with a stranger from Jerusalem to Emmaus; it was only in the breaking of the bread during the meal they shared that they recognized the stranger as Jesus.

In today's Gospel, the two disciples excitedly race back to Jerusalem to tell the apostles and others gathered in the upper room what had happened. Suddenly, Jesus appears among them. Startled and frightened, they think they're seeing a ghost. Jesus says, "Peace be with you. Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." He showed them his hands and his feet.

The apostles are overjoyed and amazed. To show even more that he is no ghost, Jesus asks them for something to eat. They give Jesus a piece of baked fish that he takes and eats in front of them.

Jesus says, "While I was with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms had to happen." Jesus explains that the Scriptures, which told of his suffering, death and rising from the dead after three days, have been fulfilled. They begin to understand Jesus had done what his Father had sent him to do. Jesus calls the apostles his witnesses because they have seen all these things happen. He calls them to evangelize, to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations.

Before the apostles evangelize, Jesus will send the Holy Spirit who will teach them the full meaning of the Gospel message and will fill them with grace to make them his powerful witnesses. We will hear about this on Pentecost.

Jesus has said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe in me." We may not have seen with our own eyes all that happened to Jesus, but we believe. Through baptism we became members of the Catholic Church Jesus founded. We, too, are called to follow Jesus, to live as he taught us and to be his witnesses by our words and actions.

At Mass, we listen to and learn from the Scripture readings and are nourished and strengthened to live our faith by receiving Jesus in holy Communion.

Jesus, help us to know you better, to love you more and to serve you faithfully as your witnesses.

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