Grace and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Where do you see or experience Jesus? This is a very important question that is important to discern during the Easter season as we contemplate where Jesus is in our lives. Luke is a great story teller. One of the stories Luke has that the other gospels do not is the story of the disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus where they encounter the risen Jesus while walking from Jerusalem to Jericho. In today’s story, the two disciples traveling the road from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus and were trying to make sense of all that happened the last 3 days. Miraculously, when the stranger served them they were able to see Jesus after he broke, blessed and gave them bread. This is the same order of actions experienced during his final meal, the last supper. We experience Jesus when we chew the bread and sip the wine, taking Jesus into our bodies to strengthen using our faith and keep us in his grace. That is why Jesus instituted the last super and commanded us to do this in Luke 22 “…do this in remembrance of me.” We know that if we believe in Jesus we will have eternal life but where do we see Jesus in our everyday life beyond holy communion? We also experience Jesus at the baptismal font where we die with Christ but will raise with Christ to eternal life. Baptism is also meant to strengthen us and keep us in our grace as we carry out Jesus’ commandment in Matthew 28:19-20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” We also see Jesus

Perhaps by naming only Cleopas, one of the two disciples Luke may be inviting us each to identify implicitly with the second disciple to imagine making the journey as Cleophas' companion imagining walking with Jesus, while trying to make sense of the resurrection story with us. This stranger walk with us, asking what we were discussing. Where do we start? Cleopas was incredulous telling stranger he may have been the only one who has not heard of what had just happened in Jerusalem. He tells the stranger about what has happened to the might prophet Jesus of Nazareth, the one who we believed would redeem Israel but was handed over by the religious leaders to be condemned to death and to be crucified. Then he dies on the cross. Here we are three days later and in the morning the women went to the tomb which was empty and came back and said they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Others had gone to the tomb to say it was empty. The stranger says we should understand the Messiah should suffer these things to enter into his glory. Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets he interprets the scripture and the things about Jesus in all the scriptures. What a bible study!

When the stranger goes ahead we enter the village we urged him to stay because it is almost dark so he decided to stay with us. As we served the meal he took the read, blessed and broke the bread. To Luke, meals are important. Suddenly, they recognized Jesus but he vanished from our sight. Could it be that our expectations of what a risen Christ would look like and the context of our encounter with Christ is not what we expected? What are you looking for in Christ?

How do we respond to this? What was their response? They had to go back to the other disciples in Jerusalem a share the amazing thing that happened to them and how they too have seen Jesus. Indeed, they are to also proclaim this good news of Jesus’ resurrection. This is a life-giving and powerful message. We proclaim the good news- the tomb is empty. We have seen the risen Christ. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This remarkable Emmaus story depicts the awareness of the two disciples. They are trying to debrief and understand Christ's death and their faith in his resurrection. Used to perceive Christian spiritual growth, this story is considered to be a model for our own journey into a deeper which can be utilized to help in their journey

Where do you see or experience Jesus? Some would look to Jesus to help us at work, in matters of love or to generate wealth or political control. The two disciples in today’s story have something to teach us. Jesus the messiah offers blessings far deeper than any we can imagine. This is an understandably a difficult time for the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The three days told stories about Jesus death, which was shocking, then he had risen from the dead. What the women discover threw all the disciples off guard. In recalling the recent events to a stranger, they did not recognize this stranger who joined them in their journey for who they were. We can be so engrossed with things that we can miss Jesus in our life. We risk seeing or experiencing Jesus in unlikely places like the hospital bed, nursing home, funeral home, grave site, feeding the hungry, and anywhere else we miss recognizing Jesus as he comes to us through unexpected people and in unexpected places. Keep experiencing and looking. Amen.