Easter 3 4/19/2026
Luke 24:13-35 A

TEXT IS APPOINTED GOSPEL FOR THIS SUNDAY, FROM THE 24TH CHAPTER OF LUKE'S GOSPEL

The walk to Emmaus for those two disciples was a perfectly sad, depressing walk. Look at their own words, *"We had hoped" (v. 21).* They had pinned all their hopes and all their dreams on Jesus of Nazareth, *"a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people" (v. 19).* They had hoped that He would redeem Israel and make their nation great again. But their hopes and dreams died when the *"chief priests and rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him" (v. 20).* Now, He was dead and buried and their hope was … gone!

At least, He was supposed to be dead and buried, but some women went to the tomb and they came back saying they did not find His body and that they had even seen a vision of angels. Some of their buddies went down to check it out and they found His grave empty, just as the women said. It was all so confusing for them. So sad. As they walked, they didn't know what to believe, what to do.

Have you ever taken a walk like that? Have you ever walked out of the doctor's office with your spouse or child and their illness was so far advanced that all the doctor could say was, "There's nothing more we can do." You've made that walk from your loved one's graveside to your car, and you're not sure how life is going to do or what you're going to do. You once walked down the aisle to hear your spouse say, "I do," but now they don't, so you've taken that walk out of the attorney's office after signing the divorce papers.

You know what it's like to take a sad, depressing walk like that, don't ya? Then you know how those disciples on the road to Emmaus felt that Sunday morning. The hurt, the confusion, the sadness, the disappointment; your hopes and dreams not just shattered, but gone. And now, you have to live with it.

But note, My Christian Friends, those disciples were not walking alone. There was a stranger walking with them. And He asked them, *"What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" (v. 17).* Why the confusion, the sadness, the disappointment all over their faces? Cleopas could only answer Him, *"Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days" (v. 18)?* Who doesn't know what has taken place? Evidently this stranger didn't because he prodded them, *"What things?"*

And, they told Him all about it. They told Him all about Jesus. How he didn't live up to their expectations. How He disappointed them. How their hope and dreams and plans were gone, utterly ruined.

They told him all they were feeling because sometimes, with emotions like that, you just need to talk; you just need to get it off your chest. And you're not really concerned if that person listening to you is a friend or a stranger. What's important is that that person is listening to you. They care enough to listen.

This stranger listened. He listened to everything those two disciples had to say. He listened to all their disappointment and then He spoke, *"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory" (v. 25-26).* Then, beginning with Moses and Prophets, He explained to them all that the Scriptures had to say about Jesus Christ –

His suffering and His death and His resurrection; how He really did redeem Israel from sin, death, and the devil. That's what that stranger did because that's what Jesus does.

In all their sadness, grief, and disappointment, they were blinded to the fact that Jesus was walking with them. Here is the Good News for you, Child of God: As you make that sad walk from the doctor's office, the hospital room, the graveside, or the lawyer's office, you're not alone. There is Jesus Christ, walking right with you, just as He promised when you were baptized, *"Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28:20b).*

He's with you. He will listen to you, all you have to say. He will even ask you all about your thoughts; everything going on in your head; what's wrong; what seems to be the problem? After all, He already knows. He knows the very number of hairs on your head. He knows you better than you know yourself. So, you tell Him. And then, Jesus will do what He always does -- He will point you to "Moses and the Prophets." "Moses and the Prophets" was the Jewish way of referring to the Old Testament. In other words, Jesus will point you to the Bible, where it tells you how much He loves you; where it tells you all about His suffering, death, and resurrection, for you and for your salvation.

He will point you to passages like Isaiah 53, pointing out that *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all (v. 6).* And, the penalty for going our own way is death.

Then, He will point you to John 10, where He tells us He is the Good Shepherd and *"the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (v. 11).* He laid down that life upon the cross, shedding His blood and dying our death to ransom us *from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not*

with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot (1 Pe 1:18-19).

He will point you to passages like the 3rd Chapter of 1 Peter, which comforts you that your Good Shepherd descended into hell to proclaim His victory face-to-face with the evil one. His head was crushed, so Satan can longer accuse you of sins, and you can resist his temptations.

He will point you to Psalm 16, where it says that God the Father will not allow His Holy One to see decay, so He raised Him to life again on the 3rd day, bringing *life and immortality to light through the Gospel (2 Tm 1:10).*

He will point you to Romans 6, which says that by your baptism into Christ, you have been united with Christ your Shepherd in His death and His Easter resurrection, meaning that you have not only died to sin, but that you live in Christ. And as you live that new life in Christ, He will point you to 2 Corinthians 5, which teaches us that we walk by faith, not by sight. As you walk by faith through this valley of the shadow of death, He walks with you, to point you to Scripture passages like...

John 14, where He says to you, *"I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live" (vs. 18-19).*

When you are struggling and the cross is heavy, He will point you to words like these from Philippians, *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (4:6-7).*

When you walk that thoroughly depressing, sad walk; when your hopes are gone and your dreams are broken to pieces; when things not

going your way; when the darkness of the valley of the shadow of death overwhelms you; Jesus is there with you. He is there to listen to you. He is there with His rod and staff to comfort you. He is there in His Word and His life-giving Body and Blood to forgive you and give you strength. He is with you always, even to the end of the age. Remember Dear Child of God, YOU NEVER WALK ALONE.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.