Emmaus and us: 3rd. Easter Sunday

April 30, 2017

Readings:

Acts 2, 14: 22-28

Psalm 16, 1-2.5.7-11

1 Peter 1: 17-21

Luke 24, 13-35

We should put ourselves in the shoes of the disciples described by the Gospel of today. They go down the road sad and crestfallen, unable to comprehend everything that had happened.

They know what they had seen: a great prophet in deeds and words. They know what they expected of him: that he would be the redeemer of Israel. But they do not know how to interpret their violent death at the hands of their rulers.

They could not recognize Jesus when he approaches them to walk with them. He looks like a foreigner more than those who visit Jerusalem for Passover.

It is striking that Jesus does not reveal his identity until they describe how some of the disciples found the empty tomb, "but they did not see Him." The same is true with us. If He did not reveal Himself to us, all we would see would be an empty tomb and a meaningless death.

How does Jesus make Himself known on Emmaus? First, he interprets "all the Scriptures" that refer to him. In the first reading and in the epistle today, Peter also opens the Scriptures to proclaim the meaning of the death of Christ, according to the plan prepared by the Father since before the creation of the world.

Jesus is described as the new Moses and the new Passover Lamb. He is the One whom David sang in today's psalm, whose soul was not abandoned to corruption; but she was taught the way of life.

Jesus, after explaining the Scriptures, sat at the table, took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples; Exactly what he had done at the Last Supper (Luke 22, 14-20).

In each Eucharist we reconstruct the scene of that Easter Sunday at Emmaus. Jesus is revealed to us on our journey. He speaks to the heart through the Scriptures. Then, on the altar table, in person of the priest, the bread is broken.

The disciples begged him “to stay with us.” And He stayed. In the Eucharist, even though we no longer see it - as in the Emmaus - we recognize Him at the breaking of bread.