

The Third Sunday of Easter – Year A – 4/19/2026 – Msgr. Peter Quang Nguyen

The first reading – Acts.2:14, 22-23: Peter’s first public proclamation about Jesus, tells us how God raised Jesus from death, thus fulfilling the Messianic prophecies about the promised descendant of David.

The Responsorial Psalm - Ps 16: “*Lord, You will show us the path of Life.*”

The second reading - 1Peter 2:20b-25: Peter exhorts the early Christians to place their Faith and Hope in God Who has saved them through the precious Blood of His Son and Who has raised Jesus from the dead.

The Gospel – John 10: 1-10: The Emmaus incident described in today’s Gospel shows us a God who will not abandon us when we are hurt or disappointed. The message of today’s Scripture readings is that the followers of Jesus are to maintain contact with their Risen Lord through prayer, the Eucharist, and the Bible. The readings also remind us that our belief in Jesus’ Real Presence in the consecrated Bread and Wine should help us to understand better his presence in the Bible and in the believing and worshipping community.

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Word of God comes to us this Third Sunday of Easter as an encounter with the Risen Lord with His Presence. Let us take a moment to reflect His Word and pray for one another.

1) Jesus meets us on our Emmaus Road. The risen Lord meets us on the road to our Emmaus, both in the ordinary experiences of our lives, and in the places to which we retreat when life is too much for us. We, too, have hopes and dreams of better health, healing, financial security, and family relationships. These hopes and dreams often shatter. The story promises us, however, that Jesus will come to us in unfamiliar guises to support and strengthen us when we least expect to encounter our risen Lord. Emmaus moments come to us when we meet the risen Christ on our life’s journey through rough times.

2) The road to Emmaus is a road of companionship. Jesus, now freed from the space-time limits of his earthly life, is present in our midst and wants to be our Friend. The risen Lord desires that we walk with Him and with one another: *“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior” (Is 43:2-3).* He wants to join us in our travels of life: *“I am a Companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts” (Ps 119:63).* *“Where two or three are gathered in My Name, I am there among them” (Mt 18:20).*

3) We meet Jesus daily on our life’s journey. The Church instructs us to hear Jesus on a daily basis through our faithful reading of, and meditation on, the Bible; through our participation in the Eucharistic celebration at which we receive Jesus as our spiritual Food and Drink; through our personal and family prayers; and through our family meals. When we meet our risen Lord through the Word of God, we commune with him. We renew our relationship with Jesus through prayer. All these meetings prepare and enable us to encounter the risen Jesus living in all the people we meet, and do Him humble, loving, selfless service in each of them.

4) Do our hearts burn when we listen to the Risen Lord? Sacred Tradition teaches us that the reading of the Scriptures, the study of the Scriptures and the proclamation of the message of the Scriptures are the primary ways in which we meet God. Vatican II (*Dei Verbum* #21) tells us that Jesus is to be equally venerated in the Eucharist and in the Bible. Therefore, we need to study the Bible, learn the Bible, memorize the Bible, and meditate on the word of God. We know that Christ lives in the Bible, and so we need to spend time in the Bible to have a deep, intimate, loving, caring, long-term relationship with Jesus Christ. We know we are to brush our teeth every day. Likewise, we are to read the Bible every day, making it habitual, because people either read the Bible daily or almost never. When we read the Scriptures daily, we meet and converse with Jesus Christ!

- Abraham Lincoln, whom many consider the best President of the United States, said: *“The greatest gift that God gave to human beings is the Bible.”*
- Another President of the United States, John Quincy Adams, said that it was a principle of his to read the Bible through each and every year.
- Yet another great President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, said, *“A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.”*
- Goethe, the great German philosopher, said that the beauty of the Bible grows as we grow in our understanding of it.

5) We need to find Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread. In the Gospel story for today, we learn that we find Christ is in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. When we approach the altar to receive the Sacrament, we see and receive Christ. In John 6:51, Jesus says, *“Whoever eats My Body and drinks My Blood shall live with me eternally.”* The Eucharist is true *“soul food,”* the Bread of life for eternity. It feeds us and fulfills our spiritual needs. It is a pity that, often, we don’t realize what is happening during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the sacred banquet of all believers. In this meal, we are in communion, not only with Jesus, but also with our family and friends who have preceded us in death. The Eucharist is not simply Bread and Wine for today – it is a banquet for all eternity.

Lord Jesus, come in and stay with us for the day is almost done. Amen.