

## *Easter 3A 2014*

### *Going in the Wrong Dirction*

Although he was present to them, they did not recognize him. Although he had told them he had to suffer and die to enter into his glory, they had forgotten his words. And although they thought he was dead, he was risen, alive, walking and speaking with them.

*The two disciples did not recognize the risen Lord* because they were going in the wrong direction. After the terrible events of Good Friday, they were leaving Jerusalem instead of going to Jerusalem. *The two disciples did not recognize the risen Lord* because they were running from the crucified Christ. Instead of going to Jerusalem to greet the risen Lord, they were leaving Jerusalem to save their lives.

But the risen Christ would not allow them to escape from his love so easily. (God never allows any of us to escape from his love so easily.) Following them, pursuing them, walking and talking with them, the risen Lord explained the scriptures to them. Then, in the breaking of the bread, he revealed himself.

Sometimes we are like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, we are walking in the wrong direction. We run from the crucified Lord instead walking to Jerusalem to meet the risen Lord.

“Jerusalem” is more than a city. It represents the goal and purpose of our life’s journey, and we will never meet the risen Lord if we are walking in the

wrong direction. For example, when we make the goal of our life's journey our selfish concerns, we are walking in the wrong direction. When we make the goal of our life's journey our personal success and achievement, we are walking in the wrong direction. When we make the goal of our life's journey the accumulation of more and more of what we already have, we are walking in the wrong direction, and we cannot meet the risen Lord.

Jerusalem, the goal of our life's journey, is to become more and more like the risen Christ. Jerusalem, the goal of our life's journey, is to enjoy, an intimate friendship with God through Jesus Christ. Jerusalem, the goal of our life's journey, is to enjoy now, and forever, the joy of resurrection life that God freely gives in Christ.

The risen Christ is always present to us, even when we are not present to him. The risen Lord is always faithful to us, even when we are not faithful to him. He is present every time we gather to celebrate this Eucharist; for the Word we hear is his Word; and the bread we eat and the wine we drink as the body and blood of our crucified and risen Lord. Christ is present to us every time we celebrate this Eucharist. He is present in our assembly. He is always present to us. But if we are to experience his presence, we must walk in the right direction. We must walk to Jerusalem, where will find crucified and risen Lord.