



Wednesday Prayer

3rd Sunday of Easter – Fed with the bread of hope

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” Luke 24:30-32

Cleopas and his companion had been walking and talking much of the day with Jesus, but they didn't recognize him. In an instant, the dynamic changes. They suddenly catch a glimpse of Jesus in this casual acquaintance whom they encountered on the road. The resignation and sadness from their earlier conversation changes and their eyes are opened in the breaking of the bread during the meal in Emmaus. Their hearts are so full with a burning desire to tell others that Jesus lives, that they immediately return to Jerusalem.

We are all like Cleopas on the road to Emmaus. Our hearts are often dragged down by “real life” of job stress, family problems, or any number of concerns that we fail to see Jesus in our midst. Our eyes are opened by the breaking of the bread. In these days of isolation, it's important to remember that the Last Supper took place on the brink of impending catastrophe. Even when it appears that there is no hope, even when we can't physically gather and eat the bread and drink the wine of communion, we have faith in the promise that Jesus made in the breaking of the bread in the upper room. Jesus is always with us as we figuratively journey to Emmaus.

Those who are vulnerable to or caught up in sex trafficking are mired deeply in real life problems and desperately need to see a glimpse of Jesus. In receiving the blessing that comes in the breaking of the bread, our hearts can be re-ignited with new hope and new confidence and a burning desire to feed others. Prayer, education and advocacy can continue, and are most important during these times of isolation and swirling pandemic. Those who are threatened by sex trafficking need to be fed with the bread of hope that comes only from Jesus as he walks with us daily.

Gracious and ever-present God, we often don't realize that our eyes are closed until we see a glimpse of your Son and they are opened. We pray that in faith, we will remember that Jesus is with us always and we will recognize him in our midst. Let your faith burn in our hearts, so that we, too, can't wait to tell others about the hope that comes in the breaking of the bread. Compel us to live lives of prayer, education and advocacy, especially for those gripped by sex trafficking, so that all may be fed by the promise of your never-ending love. Amen.

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