

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

23 April 2023 - Year A

***“They recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread.”***

### Something to Think About

We can find Jesus all around us in our daily lives if we stop and look. We can see Jesus in other people or in God's creation. Can you remember a time when you felt Jesus' presence in another person, or in creation?

### The Story

In today's gospel story, two of the disciples meet the risen Jesus on the road, but they do not recognise him. As Jesus explains the scriptures to them, they invite him to stay with them. In the sharing of a meal, their eyes are open and they recognise Jesus.

### The Scriptures

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke**

**24:13-35**

Two of Jesus' disciples were going to the village of Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. As they were talking and thinking about what had happened, Jesus came near and started walking along beside them. But they did not know who he was.

Jesus asked them, "What were you talking about as you walked along?" The two of them stood there looking sad and gloomy. Then the one named Cleopas asked Jesus, "Are you the only person from Jerusalem who didn't know what was happening there these last few days?"

"What do you mean?" Jesus asked.

They answered: "Those things that happened to Jesus from Nazareth. By what he did and said he showed that he was a powerful prophet, who pleased God and all the people. Then the chief priests and our leaders had him arrested and sentenced to die on a cross. We had hoped that he would be the one to set Israel free! But it has already been three days since all this happened. Some women in our group surprised us. They had gone to the tomb early in the morning, but did not find the body of Jesus.

They came back, saying that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. Some men from our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But they didn't see Jesus either."

Then Jesus asked the two disciples, "Why can't you understand? How can you be so slow to believe all that the prophets said? Didn't you know that the Messiah would have to suffer before he was given his glory?" Jesus then explained everything written about himself in the Scriptures, beginning with the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets.

When the two of them came near the village where they were going, Jesus seemed to be going farther.

They begged him, "Stay with us! It's already late, and the sun is going down." So Jesus went into the house to stay with them. After Jesus sat down to eat, he took some bread. He blessed it and broke it. Then he gave it to them. At once they knew who he was, but he disappeared.

They said to each other, "When he talked with us along the road and explained the Scriptures to us, didn't it warm our hearts?" So they got right up and returned to Jerusalem. The two disciples found the eleven apostles and the others gathered together. And they learned from the group that the Lord was really alive and had appeared to Peter. Then the disciples from Emmaus told what happened on the road and how they knew he was the Lord when he broke the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Video

Click to watch the video: [The Road to Emmaus](#)

## Group Discussion

Often we are not so welcoming with those we work with and play with each day. We need to recognise Jesus in all people in our daily activities, eg classroom, family, playgroup. How do we welcome those who are on the outside of the group?

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Gathered as one with all creation, let us pray for the needs of the world:

*Reader 1:* We pray for the pope, for bishops and for priests. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for our families who care for us. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for those who are sad and gloomy. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray for those who want to learn more about Jesus. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray that we will be welcoming and kind. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Dear Jesus,  
Help us to recognise you in the people  
around us and in the beauty of God's  
creation. Thank you for being near to us.  
Amen.

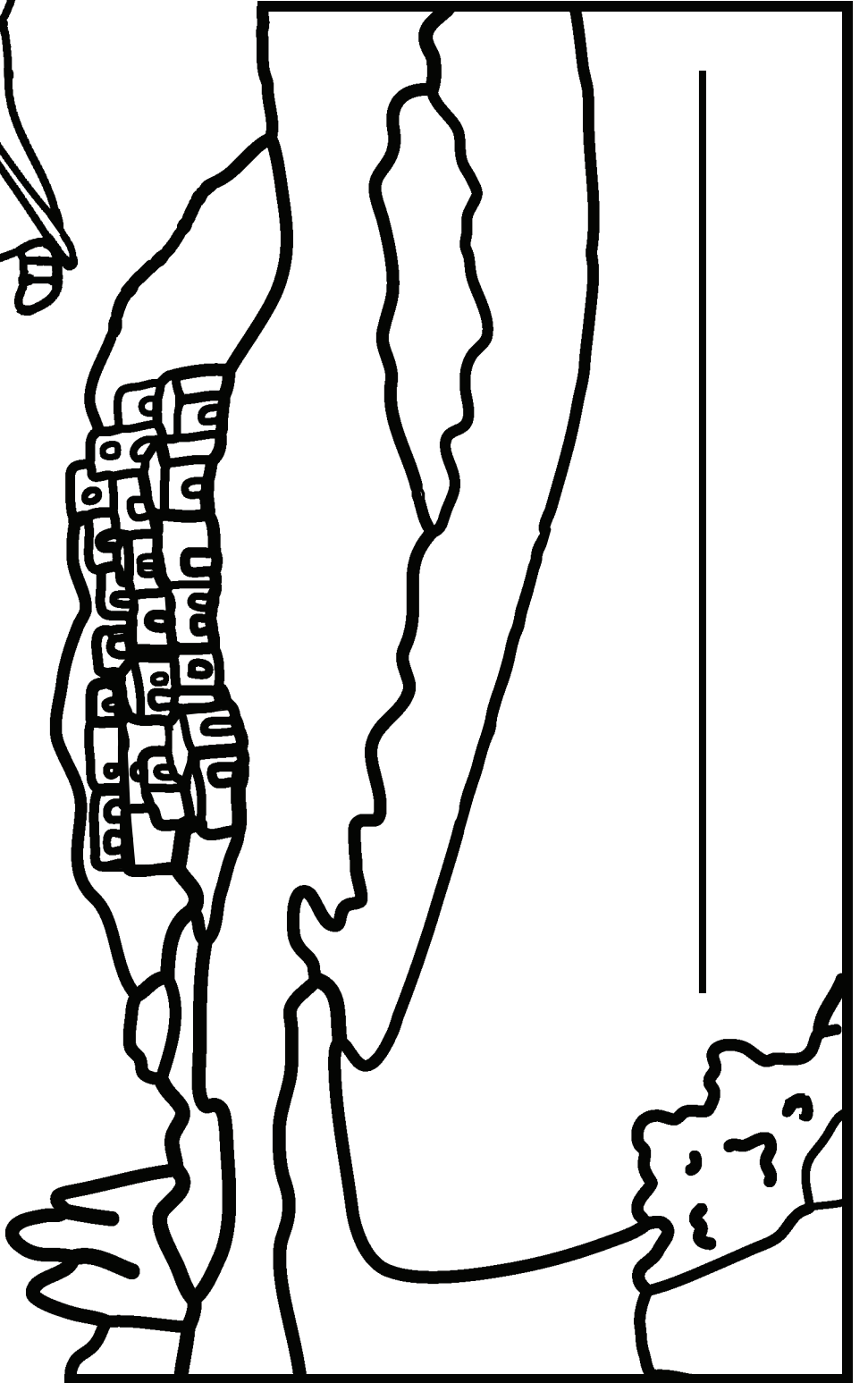
## Group Activity

### Road to Emmaus

*You will need: template on card stock for each child, scissors, craft glue, coloured markers, large paddle-pop stick.*

- 1) Invite children to colour both pieces of the template.
- 2) Glue the three figures onto a large popsicle stick.
- 3) Cut on the solid line of the 'road' image creating a slit.
- 4) Move Jesus and the disciples up and down the road.





**" AFTER JESHS SAT DOWN TO  
EAT, HE TOOK SOME BREAD.  
HE BLESSED IT AND BROKE IT.  
THEN HE GAVE IT TO THEM.  
AND AT ONCE THEY KNEW  
WHO HE WAS..."**

Find six differences in this picture of  
Jesus at supper with the disciples in  
Emmaus.

Jesus' halo is gold. A piece of bread is missing from the plate.  
The man on the left has blue eyes. His headress is different.  
The man on the right has a red headband and a gold bracelet.

