

3RD Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2009

In Luke's Gospel accounts of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus, the Lord always refers to the Scriptures, and opens the disciples' minds to understand them. He also always has something to eat, indicating that the resurrection is physical. This Risen Lord Jesus is not a ghost. The disciples never recognize Jesus right away, and do not believe at once. They must be led to understanding. Finally, when they do come to belief, the Lord sends them to preach repentance to all the nations.

Luke uses this pattern to lead us to a deeper understanding of the resurrection, just as Jesus led His disciples. The death of Jesus was very real and the wounds of His passion are still borne on His body. But the resurrection of the Lord is even more real, and is proof that the sacrifice of Jesus has been accepted. By His offering of Himself sin has been forgiven, and death, the punishment for sin, has been defeated.

The disciples are the witnesses of all this, and are commissioned to bring the news of the event to all the world. All that remains is for the world to accept this forgiveness and turn back to the God Who loves them. Only when they fully understand do the disciples rejoice and let go of their doubt. The Risen Lord is trying to lead us to full understanding in our time. The ransom for us has been paid. We have only to accept our freedom, and turn away from the sin that tries to ensnare us. Jesus is truly risen and will also raise up all who believe in Him.

God bless you.
Fr. Pat