

April 23, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

"WHY ARE YOUR HEARTS SO SLOW TO BELIEVE?"

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Introduction & Pre-Reading Reflection

The Easter season is fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ to Pentecost Sunday. The first eight days of the Easter season make up the Octave of Easter and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the first day. The Scripture readings for the Octave recount the appearances of Jesus to his disciples. Today's reading is the story of Jesus meeting two disciples on the road to Emmaus after his death and resurrection.

Before reading the passage, ask yourself

- What do I remember about this story?
 - What does this story mean to me?
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Today's Gospel

On the same day, two of the followers of Creator Sets Free (Jesus) were walking to the village of Warm Springs (Emmaus), seven miles out from the Village of Peace (Jerusalem). As they walked along, they were talking about all that had happened. Creator Sets Free (Jesus) came alongside them as they walked, but their eyes kept from seeing who he was.

He said to them, "What are you talking about?"

They stopped walking and a look of sadness fell over their faces. One of the men, Honored by His Father (Cleopas), answered him, "How can you not know about the things that have happened in the Village of Peace (Jerusalem)? You must be coming from far away." "What things are you talking about?" he asked.

"About Creator Sets Free (Jesus) from the Village of Seed Planters (Nazareth). He was prophet from the Great Spirit, with powerful medicine, who did many good things among all the people. The head holy men and other leaders handed him over to the People of Iron to be put to death on the cross. We had hoped that he would free the tribes of Wrestles With Creator (Israel) from the People of Iron. It is now the third day since they killed him on the cross, but today some women told us an amazing story. Early this morning they went to his burial cave and found that his body was not there. They told us about visions of spirit-messengers who told them he was alive! Some of our men went to see with their own eyes and found the empty cave, but they did not see Creator Sets Free (Jesus)."

"Why are your hearts so slow to believe the words of the prophets?" he said. "It should be clear to you that the Chosen One would suffer first before he would be lifted up and honored above all."

So Creator Sets Free (Jesus) told them this story, beginning with Drawn From the Water (Moses) and all the prophets. He showed them how all the ancient Sacred Scrolls were written about the Chosen One and pointed the way to him.

They still didn't know it was Creator Sets Free (Jesus) talking to them. As they entered the village, he walked on as if to go further. They said to him, "Please, stay with us. It is late and the sun will soon set."

So he went into the lodging house with them. When they sat down to eat a meal together, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) took some bread into his hands. He gave thanks and broke it, giving each of them a piece. Suddenly, their eyes

were opened and they knew who he was, but he vanished right in front of them.

The men looked at each other in wide eyed wonder and said, “It felt like our hearts were on fire when he was talking with us on the road, showing us the meaning of the Sacred Scrolls!”

They got up without finishing their meal and walked back to the Village of Peace (Jerusalem), as fast as they could, for the sun was setting. They found where the eleven had gathered together with the others.

They were saying, “Our Wisdomkeeper is alive! He has shown himself to Stands On The Rock (Peter).”

So the two men told them what happened on the road and how their eyes were opened when Creator Sets Free (Jesus) broke the bread into pieces.

LUKE 24:13-35 (FIRST NATIONS VERSION)



Reflection

- What struck me as I read this Indigenous “telling” of the story?
- What insights does this version offer me?

For Prayer

*Risen One,
like those disciples on the road to Emmaus,
we struggle to recognize you in the everyday journey of our lives.
We seek your wisdom in the midst of the questions we have
about the circumstances we find ourselves in—
circumstances sometimes beyond our control,
but often of our own making.*

*Open our eyes, Light of the World,
to your work of transformation in and around us.
As we walk with you day by day,
may your new life be made manifest in what we say to others.
Help us to understand the power of our words to hurt or to heal;
give us the graciousness to make all our conversations holy.
Just as we desire that our speaking be holy,
may our seeing be holy as well.
We are bombarded with images everyday, O Christ,
that shape our attitudes and behaviors.*

*As you opened the scriptures to the disciples
and taught them everything,
open our eyes to behold you in your Word,
in the beauty of nature,
the beauty of another human being
and the beauty of sacred art.*

*And in our seeing,
help us to recognize and welcome the stranger in our midst.
May our welcome be a celebration of the gifts and graces
of persons who are different from us
and not merely some token tolerance of an outsider.*

*You were known to the disciples in the breaking of the bread.
May your resurrection presence guide us in the decisions we make
about what we take into our bodies—
especially what we eat and what we drink.
Help us to understand our eating and drinking as sacred events,
not to be abused or approached mindlessly.*

So often we forget, Holy One,

*that you invite us to abide with you;
to have our lives hidden in you.
We thank you that you travel with us in our joys and our concerns.
Amen.*

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