

YOU ARE WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

... for busy people ...

Day 1 – Sunday

Luke 24:1-5

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Reflection

Like the women, might I be surprised to find that I am looking in the wrong places for God?
What are the signs of God that I have not recognized in my life?

Day 2 – Monday

Luke 24:13-16

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

Reflection

These two disciples – not identified either as men or women – were talking together about what was important to them. Sharing with others our hopes and concerns can both express our faith and support the faith of others in the risen Lord.

What helps me to recognize the presence of the Lord in my life?

Day 3 – Tuesday

Luke 17-19a

¹⁷And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’

Reflection

Do I tend to be a stranger to what is happening around me? Can I find opportunities to engage with my faith, my parish, my community – even if it might take some effort?

Do I talk to God as a stranger or as a friend?

Day 4 – Wednesday

Luke 24:17-21

¹⁹He asked them, ‘What things?’ They replied, ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.

Reflection

These women told the truth of what they saw and believed. Am I willing to talk about the wonderful things that God does for me?

Day 5 – Thursday

Luke 24:25-27

²⁵Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

Reflection

The risen Christ used the Scriptures to enable the disciples to understand. Perhaps I could read and reflect on the Sunday gospel so that my faith and understanding grow.

Day 6 – Friday

Luke 24:28-35

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?’ ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen

indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ ³⁵*Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

Reflection

Toward the end of the day – each day – I might think about God with me, in me, and in all those who have been part of me. My prayer each night might be, ‘Stay with me...’

Day 7 – Saturday

Luke 24:36-40

³⁶*While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’* ³⁷*They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.* ³⁸*He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?’* ³⁹*Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’* ⁴⁰*And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.*

Reflection

St Francis’ prayer includes ‘It is in giving that we receive’. How can I give the gift of peace to others... and in giving receive this gift. Who needs my gift at this time?

Day 8 – Sunday

Luke 24:41-48

⁴¹*While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’* ⁴²*They gave him a piece of broiled fish,* ⁴³*and he took it and ate in their presence.*

⁴⁴*Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’* ⁴⁵*Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,* ⁴⁶*and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,* ⁴⁷*and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.* ⁴⁸*You are witnesses of these things.*

Reflection

Remembering that Christ is with me always, how do I witness to this reality? How is my mind open to understanding the scriptures? Do I give thanks for the gift of remembering, the gift of memory?