



14 April 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter

Year B

Lord, We Touch You Today!

In this third Sunday of Easter, we continue to meet the Risen Christ. He sets the hearts of his disciples at peace and opens their minds to understand the message of the Scriptures concerning his destiny of pain and glory.

The Risen Lord continues to touch us and our lives as he did to his disciples after the resurrection. But the invitation to touch him and see his wounds and for us to recognize fully who he is for us came from him first.

We need to touch base with the real and the true. And it is only in the light of the truth of the Resurrection that we are able to make sense of the violent passion and death of Christ, along with so many realities that we cannot accept, let alone understand. It is only in the light of his resurrection and the eternal life he earned for us that we can come to accept the trials of life with faith and patience.

Only in the Risen Christ can we make sense and oppose the many forms of death that threaten our existence. In this Eucharist, let us pray with all earnestness: "Lord, we touch you today."



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

Greeting

P – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

All–Amen!

P –The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

All–And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P –Coming together as God's family, with humble trust, let us ask the Lord's forgiveness for all our sins. *(Pause)*

P –Lord Jesus, you are the Holy and Righteous One. Lord, have mercy!

All– Lord, have mercy!

P –Lord Jesus, you are the Author of Life. Christ, have mercy!

All– Christ, have mercy!

P –Lord Jesus, you are our Intercessor in the presence of the Father. Lord, have mercy!

All– Lord, have mercy!

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All–Amen!

Gloria

All–Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
All—Amen!



1st Reading Acts 3:13-15.17-19
Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead, was the core of the Apostles' preaching. We see this exemplified in the speech of St. Peter, soon after having healed a man who had been a cripple from birth.

R –A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter said to the people: "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and denied in Pilate's presence when he had decided to release him.

You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. The Author of Life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead. Of this we are witnesses.

Now I know, brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did; but God has thus brought to fulfillment what he had announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer.

Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away."

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 4

R –*Lord, let your face shine on us!*

R. M. Velez



* **When I call, answer me, O my just God, you who relieve me when I am in distress; have pity on me, and hear my prayer!** **R.**

* **Know that the Lord does wonders for his faithful one; the Lord will hear me when I call upon him.** **R.**

* **O Lord, let the light of your countenance shine upon us! You put gladness into my heart.** **R.**

* **As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep, for you alone, O Lord, bring security to my dwelling.** **R.**

2nd Reading 1 Jn 2:1-5

The apostle John reminds us that our salvation comes from Jesus, and to know and love God is not just a matter of mind and feelings. It is, first of all, a matter of keeping His commandments.

R –A reading from the First Letter of John

My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous One. He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world.

The way we may be sure that we know him is to keep his commandments. Those who say, "I know him," but do not keep his commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them.

But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly

perfected in him.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Lk 24:32

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!
Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn while you speak to us.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 24:35-48

Soon after having enlightened the two disciples of Emmaus, the Risen Christ appears to the rest of his disciples in Jerusalem. He does this to strengthen their faith in his resurrection and help them understand the Scripture passages about him.

P –The Lord be with you!
All—And with your spirit!

P –A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
All—Glory to you, O Lord!

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish. He took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to

GLOSSARY: • **The God of Abraham . . . , the God of our fathers:** This phrase is often found in the Old Testament as a title of God. It emphasizes the continuity of His plan, and His faithfulness to the promises He had made to Abraham and his descendants. • **Holy and Righteous One:** These two titles are often attributed to God in the Bible. Here they are attributed to Jesus to state forcefully that he is the promised Messiah. • **Author of Life:** A title of Jesus Christ, the source of the life-giving blessings bestowed on all mankind. • **The Third Day:** Jesus had already announced beforehand that he would rise from death "on the third day." This phrase is taken from Hosea 6:2 and indicates the "Day of the Lord," i.e., the day of God's victorious intervention against His enemies.

you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the *third day* and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

*(Apostles' Creed)**

All—I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P —Our whole life should bear witness to the truth that we are saved by Jesus' death and resurrection. Aware of our inadequacy to do so, we pray:

All—Lord, graciously hear us!

C —That the entire Church, under the guidance of its leaders, may never grow weary of proclaiming the Resurrection and bear witness to it, let us pray! **R.**

C —That all those who suffer may find in the resurrection of Christ the surest source of consolation and hope, let us pray! **R.**

C —That those who doubt the reality of Christ's resurrection may be helped to believe by the exemplary life of all the faithful, let us pray! **R.**

C —That all the victims of natural calamities and human violence may experience the concrete support of all those who believe in the resurrection of Christ, let us pray! **R.**

C —That all of us who are gathered here to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord may experience its life-giving power in our daily activity, let us pray! **R.**

P —Jesus, help us to overcome the deadly effects of our sinfulness and to become signs of your resurrection to all our brothers and sisters. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P —Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P —Receive, O Lord, we pray, these offerings of your exultant Church, and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness, grant also that the gifts we bring may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of Easter V

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P —It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to praise you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

By the oblation of his Body, he brought the sacrifices of old to fulfillment in the reality of the Cross and, by commending himself to you for our salvation, showed himself the Priest, the Altar, and the Lamb of sacrifice.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P —The mystery of faith!

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!



All—Our Father . . .

P —Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

* Instead of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the **Apostles' Creed**, may be used.

P –Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All–Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

The Christ had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead; in his name repentance and remission of sins must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

P –Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray, that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!



P –The Lord be with you.

All–And with your spirit!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. *(Pause)*
–The Redeemer has given you lasting freedom. May you inherit his everlasting life.

All–Amen!

P –By faith you rose with Jesus in baptism. May your lives be holy, so that you will be united with him for ever.

All–Amen!

P –Jesus appeared to his disciples to strengthen their faith. May he strengthen your faith that you may witness to his resurrection in your daily lives.

All–Amen!

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the

Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All–Amen!

P –The Mass is ended. Go, and

share the joy of the Risen Christ with all you meet today.

All–Thanks be to God!

LET YOUR FACE SHINE ON US!

Kalakbay at Katoto

There are just things and events that we can’t seem to have enough of. We talk about them endlessly. And the mouth just cannot keep itself shut. From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks!

The opening line of today’s Gospel passage seems no different: *“The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.”* The event was simply too much to contain, too powerful to simply sweep under the rug.

Discoveries and insight come with “heartsight.” A heart that loves is never far from serendipity and insight. It was in such a moment of animated and passionate discussion of disciples who recount *“what they have seen and heard,”* that Jesus answered the equally passionate plea of the same disciples echoed in today’s responsorial psalm: *“Lord, let your face shine on us!”*

This, too, is our prayer today.

The Lord, indeed, answers our prayers. But he does so when we do our part. The Lord lets his presence “shine” on us when we are busy “recounting,” when we ourselves are involved in telling other people *“what we have seen and what we have heard.”* The Lord lets his face shine on us, when we are busy making him known to others. It was in such a reflective mood that the Risen Lord showed himself to the disciples gathered together in the Upper Room.

But do we really mean what we say? Let your face shine on us, O Lord! But please do not take away the noise of our everyday life. Do not take away our TikTok or Netflix time, and the so many hours we spend in our gadgets. Let your face shine on us, Lord, but not during the times we are busy gossiping, complaining, and tearing at one another. Let your face shine on us, O Lord, but not during my “me” time, not during the time I spend catching up with the “latest developments” from our favorite social media influencer. Let your face shine on us, O Lord, but please do not make me teach religion, do not make me sound so pious for fear of offending my friends who do not want to hear about God and talk of moral rules at any time outside of Church. Let your face shine on me, O Lord, but please, not when I am busy at work, when I am just about ready to strike a business deal with people who are just as ungodly as I have become!

Honesty... it basically means meaning what I say. Today, I pray with all the rest in Church: *“Lord, let your face shine on us!”* Let me see you, Lord... let me feel you, and touch you ... let me be filled with the glory of your presence in our midst.

At Mass today, we cannot but see him, feel him, and touch him... that is, if we mean what we do and say in the liturgical assembly. **In this assembly, we “recount,” we hear, and we proclaim “what we all have seen and heard,” and we do the breaking of the bread “in memory of him” risen once and for all for our sins and our salvation.**

No longer is it a prayer of request that we now dwell on primarily, but a declaration of our firm belief and conviction: *“Lord, we touch you today.” “We have seen the Lord!”*



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