**“Risen Indeed”**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 1:17-25

Luke 24:13-35

Easter 3

The two, **taught of Himself and revealed to them alive after having been dead**, said “’Did not our hearts burn within us while Jesus **talked to us on the road**, while He **opened to us the Scriptures**’, **returning to Jerusalem that same hour**, **finding the eleven and those who were with them gathered, saying to them ‘The Lord** **has risen indeed’**. Then they **told what had happened on the road**, and **how Jesus was known to them in the breaking of the bread**.”

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Bridge**

Christ **is risen!** He is **risen, indeed!** **Alleluia!** And **that** is exactly the place the Lord’s immediate followers had **arrived at** on the resurrection day of Easter. “The Lord **is risen indeed**” **they too** said aloud, like we do. And that will be our purposeful “shout out” for, at least, the next 5 weeks … no matter **what else happens** in that amount of time.

**They (followers)**, had **journeyed** through a lot. It had been, certainly, a **weekend to** **remember** if not **6+ months** … but the **week** (and, **especially**, the week’s **end**) had been fast-paced and confusing and uncomfortable (to say the least) and, even, brutal for, even, **death** kinds of reasons and movements headed that way. For the 6+ months Jesus had been trying to tell His followers **what He had to go through soon**, yet few could **comprehend it** … or (for that matter) **listen**. They did, however, walk with Him, and that’s commendable (called disciples because of it). Ever since Galilee (and for almost 3 years many of them), they’d trusted and were “all in”, not hedging, but following (literally), walking stride-by-stride with Jesus to watch and “hear” (at least), and “see” His every move trying to stay (to some degree) “in His stride”.

**Text**

But He was **killed on Friday**. They were one quiet Sabbath Day Saturday apart from the arrest and obviously-rigged trial then execution / crucifixion of this **One they followed** … when they’d so hoped that **He** (“the prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people”) “was the **One to redeem Israe**l”.

It’s nearly impossible to imagine that **Friday was the WAY Jesus “redeemed Israel**”. Redemption could be imagined done (to some degree or another) by **military might** or by **contagious ideas**, but all of that by some leader **alive**, not **dead (killed)** unless martyred with a dynamic second in command. A fisherman (Peter) certainly wasn’t up to the task. The movement’s leader (the only One possible for an understandable redemption) was killed (died), His body buried and sealed into a tomb before Friday’s nightfall. And there it laid (with armed guards) all through Saturday, day 2 of those 3 (first, second, then third days) … and how **could** **sacrifice like that** be (for a nation who’d receive it as such) “**redemption**”?

**We** walk a road “to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem” … and we can, sometimes, be found talking about things of **redemptive significance** that, we know, **have** “**happened**”. Now **our roads** may **look more** like Buckner and Franklin Road, Highway 65 or any number of side-streets, but (since becoming, ourselves, “Israel” by baptism, members-made to be a favored “nation” blessed by grace (not **due** us, but **gifted** us), “**Emmaus, having just come from the things that happened in Jerusalem a mere seven miles from where our bodies walked**” is exactly **our situation** morning, noon, and night of every day of this earthly life. We never really leave **(nor should we ever)** the **posture of these two men** **and our entire 10, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100 year walk upon this planet** is **nothing different than** the “**road to Emmaus on the day of Easter**” **that just follows** **Friday’s redemptive tragedy called “Good”**. And **we** have the **benefit of additional perspective in that** where Cleopas and the other who journeyed with him showed some, yet, **perspective** that they had, yet, to **gain**.

And **gain they did** … as **we continue to grow in it**. After the early morning Easter experiences of people, this is the Easter “**reveal**”. We heard from Matthew and John 2 weeks ago, but not yet Luke who says, first,

“but on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. **Remember** how He told you, while He was in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and **be crucifed** and **on the third day** **rise**.’” **REDEMPTION WAS ALWAYS TO HAVE HAD TO HAPPEN THIS WAY** **… “REMEMBER ALWAYS WHAT JESUS TOLD YOU”**. “And **they remembered His words**, and returning from the tomb they **told all these things to the eleven and to the rest**.”

That afternoon … and for the whole afternoon into early evening … “Jesus Himself **drew near**” **to the two as they were “going and talking and discussing together”**. “’Was it not **necessary**” (He told them) ‘**that** **the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory**?’ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He **interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself**.”

**The suffering of Jesus IS redemption** **…** and **as we walk with Him through His**, **so (this almost climactic text Luke shares with us) Jesus walks with us through ours**. He (like with these disciples) **talks to us**, **teaches us**, **reminds** us, **reveals to us (anew even)**, and **our** “**hearts burn**” **as He does and we know it**, yet He **never leaves us**, **Him** **going and staying with us (journeying with us as we go), and always**.

And the **result for us** is exactly where their evening **left them**: with **words to know for sure and say out loud (to ourselves, but also in the proximity of others): “The Lord has risen indeed!” and tell of what happens with us on the road with Jesus walking with us, and how He is known to us, with us as He is.**

**Application**

Luke will **bookend** the Easter Season for us. He will **start here** on the **road to Emmaus**, and **end** at the Ascension with Jesus stating that (even though not physically seeing Him) “He will **be with us always, to the very end of this age**”. Luke had focused His Gospel presentation on this: a **disciple’s walk (or journey) with Jesus to and through that necessary redemption (payment of His own blood sacrificed upon a cross)**, then **His forever (and every moment) walk (or journey) with us as we go through confusion or anxiety or struggle and even suffering ourselves … but do so united to Him**. Luke, remember, didn’t stop writing with Jesus’ ascended reign from Heaven’s realm, but **continued documenting His reign among His people** in the chronicles of Acts (Luke wrote **both books** to speak of **Jesus’** **ongoing walk with His people**). First, though, he had to **document Jesus Easter fact: “He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!”** ……

I don’t know what the following week was like for Cleopas and his friend. I’m guessing that maybe (just maybe) they got to physically see Jesus a couple of more times before His Ascension, and maybe these 2 were at the Ascension (texts don’t say). And I don’t know by what death they eventually died … I don’t know through what sicknesses or flues or injuries or relationship challenges or financial hardships these 2 had to traverse … but I do know that they had **Easter afternoon and everything that followed it (because of it)**.

And **we** **have that too**, so **may** the peace of God that surpasses all human understanding, then, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

He **is risen!** He is risen, **indeed!** **Alleluia!** In +His name, Jesus. Amen.