

Text: Luke 24:13-35

Sermon Outline

Into: Peekaboo!

1. Jesus seems to hide from us, cannot see Him, cannot feel Him.
 - a. We lose hope, akin to the Disciples, ‘We had hoped....’
2. Jesus reveals Himself in the breaking of the bread
 - a. Shows Himself, explains everything to calm hearts and hope again.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

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

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the twenty-fourth chapter verses thirteen through thirty-five.

Boys and Girls I pray that you are doing well this morning. Have you ever played the game of Peekaboo? I am sure you have, same with your moms and dads, and grandparents. Someone’s eyes are covered by their hands. They are hidden and then they opening them saying “Peekaboo!” Usually to the squeals of joy from little ones. The reason why it works is because little ones do not know that objects exist if they cannot see them. They cannot see them, therefore they do not exist. Then when they see a loved one again, they are overjoyed. In a way, Jesus plays peekaboo with the disciples today. He hides Himself then reveals Himself to their overwhelming joy. Sometimes it feels like Jesus does the same to us today. How does Jesus reveal Himself to us today? How does Jesus give us overwhelming joy today? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

1.

On the road to Emmaus as they head back to their home, two disciples are dejected, run down, hopeless. Why? Because, as they explain to their Lord, though at the time they do not realize that it is Him, they had hoped that Jesus would be the one to redeem Israel. And now? Now he's been crucified, dead, and buried. Where is their hope now? Cold and dead, lying in a tomb. They do not understand why these things have happened. So our Lord takes the time on the walk to explain why. He begins with Moses and the Prophets, explaining everything that was necessary for the Son of Man to undergo. Talk about an in depth Bible Study!

How many times are we akin to these disciples? We do not always understand why things happen in our lives, especially when it comes to suffering. We have our own hopes and dreams that we desire to come true. Whether that be for a larger home, better health, better government and leaders, better behavior. Whatever it may be when it does not happen and come to fruition, we become despondent, we become hopeless as our hopes and dreams fade away and seem to lie dead in the tomb.

Many times, it seems as though our Lord is hiding Himself from us. We cannot physically see Him. We cannot touch Him. If you look around at the world, you cannot always see a wonderous display of God working in His creation for His power and glory. It seems as though hell, death, and the devil win constantly. Faced with this, we become despondent as it seems as though He is not really in control at all nor looking out for our interests and wellbeing.

2.

Yet, how things seem is not always what they are. The hope of the disciples is not cold and dead, lying in the tomb. He is right there alongside them, even if they are unaware of it. Jesus hides Himself from them until the right time. That time is when they arrive at Emmaus. He surprises them by taking over the role of Master and host. Their surprise and joy increases when He reveals Himself in the breaking of the bread. Peekaboo! Jesus is alive! Much like the joy of a newborn seeing the face of a parent, the disciples are overjoyed.

Their hope is not dead, but alive forever more! They run back to Jerusalem to inform the other disciples as their hearts burn within them, hope restored.

So too our Hope is alive. Hell, death, and the devil are not winning the war. They have already been defeated forever by our Lord on the Cross. God is working in His creation, daily caring for it, sustaining it, and providing it with every good thing. While yes, we cannot physically touch our Lord. Our Lord still reveals Himself to us today in the breaking of bread in Holy Communion. Here we receive His very body and blood for the restoration of our souls, the strengthening of our faith, and the forgiveness of our sins. Whenever we hear His word, whether in public worship or private devotion, there our Lord is revealing Himself alongside us as we go throughout our lives. In the midst of our pain, suffering, and hopelessness, when it seems as though all our hope is destroyed and we have absolutely nothing to live for, our Lord comes alongside us, strengthens us, and reveals that His is right there with us as He has promised to be until the very end of the age. He refreshes our souls and makes our hearts burn again through His holy Word and Sacraments.

Dear Christian, Peekaboo! Your Lord is not hidden. He has not hidden Himself from you. Instead, He reveals Himself to you through the eyes of faith to your everlasting joy. He comes to you in His Word, calms your troubled hearts, and makes them burn again even when it seems there is nowhere else to turn. Your Hope is alive forever more because

Alleluia Christ is Risen!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.