



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 14, 2024

St. James Catholic Church
*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

Reflection from Sally Delwiche Dux

We have reached the Third Sunday of Easter. Christ has died, Christ has Risen, and Christ has Come Again. The Risen Christ appeared to His disciples in last Sunday's Gospel. They were overwhelmed with both joy and disbelief. The Easter story continues in Luke 24: 35-48 with two disciples trying to make sense about what they have witnessed: the brutal crucifixion of their Lord, their Rabbi. Could they have stopped the brutality? Why did it have to happen? Did He truly rise from the dead? How confusing and overwhelming it must have been for His followers!

In today's Gospel, the Risen Christ once again appears in bodily form, greeting His disciples with the comforting words "Peace be with you." The disciples are shaken; they are afraid. They feel a sense of shame and guilt. But with His presence, Jesus "opens their minds to understand the Scriptures." He reassures them. They do not have to be afraid. They do not have to carry the burden of guilt. Christ paid for their sins, and ours, on the cross. It was the fulfilment of God's plan. It had to happen for the good of God's people. Christ opened the hearts and minds of His disciples to the message that reaches us today: put aside our doubts and fears, reflect on our sins, seek forgiveness from the Lord, and go forth in Peace to share our faith in the glory of the Easter story. Christ is with us. He has Risen from the Cross. Alleluia!

