

MISERICORDIAS DOMINI - THE THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER

Acts 2:14a, 36-41, I Peter 1:17-25, Luke 24: 13-35

Mt. Calvary, West View / Pentecost, Avella

04/30/17

Theme: Evidence Examined

+ Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +

Our Text is taken from the continuation of Gospel of St. John, the 20th chapter:

And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?"

HE IS RISEN! HIRIH,TIMCT!¹

The Easter narrative is bouncing back and forth, not unlike that NBC acclaimed miniseries *This is Us*. This is not the kind of TV show that you come into the middle of and can follow the story line like you can with other soap operas. No, this show likes flashbacks. I think it is directed by a 70ø LSD burnout with all the flashbacks they do. It is an unscientific account, but I would venture to say the how is more than 50% flashback, and if you come in to watch the show in the middle, as I did this past week, you can be so confused as to what is going on when, its best to just turn on the hockey game and see who the Pens might play when it comes time to acquire Lord Stanleyø Cup.

Our text last week covered Easter evening and the following weekø excitement of Jesus appearing to the disciples in the locked room for fear of the Jews. While they were in that room they were contemplating the news of the women that they had seen the angels that told them Jesus is not here, but has risen, just as He said He would. They were contemplating the news that Peter had seen the Lord; where and when we are not privy to this information, but apparently, Peter had a special revelation for assurance that he is forgiven for his denial three times just a few days

before. Today, we are flashing back to the time that Cleopas and the other disciple, most likely Luke Himself, who had their own personal encounter with Jesus.

What makes this encounter so wonderful, is that these two disciples are no better than Thomas. They had just as much evidence as Thomas had, and as I said last week, there is no excuse for Thomas to not believe. They had the evidence of Jesus telling them He would rise, and as I said last week, anybody coming into this world through a virgin birth has my full attention and trust that what they may say is true. So, if Jesus tells them He will rise in three days, well this should not be as shocking to them as a Trump election. They had the Old Testament scriptures declaring the proof of Jesus as the Messiah and thereby His body would not see decay. Certainly, they had all this already, so why doubt?

For these two, I will grant the pass that they may have been in just too much grief at the loss of their Savior. It seems to me that they were not so much into disbelief as they were in thought trying to sort things out for themselves. They were talking to each other about the things that have happened. They were examining the evidence and reexamining them to come to terms with what they had witness three days prior, to what they have heard this day. Do not misunderstand, examining evidence is not wrong. Oh, to be sure one has to live by faith, and faith only comes from hearing the Word of God, but to examine what is before you is not a sin, but necessary, so that the facts are straight and the argument sound.

I guess if I want to be a bit more accurate, I believe the term is "examine the Scriptures". You and I have the wonderful ability to examine the Scriptures, and show where Christ is in our lives. Whereas the disciples had to sort through all the evidence to understand what the Holy Ghost was communicating to them, you have the full Scriptures to see that Jesus has been born of a virgin; Jesus has lived the sinless life in your place; Jesus has paid the ultimate price of His

complete life shed upon the Cross of Calvary, not with Gold or Silver, but with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. The evidence is overwhelming that this has been accepted as the price by the Father by raising Him from the grave, for death has no mastery over Him. Because He is both Lord and Christ, has lived and died and rose again, you can live a life worth of the Name Jesus, by faith in Him. Your baptism is the mark wherewith you are the Child of God and saved by the blood shed from the cross. Partaking of the very Body and blood, you are forgiven just as Jesus says you are, and that is all the evidence you need to believe.

It is also all the evidence you need to share the good news with your neighbor. As your walking along the way through life towards the destination of eternal life, you can also review the scriptures and see where Jesus has proven to be the Messiah to come, the final sacrifice for all sins, and the ultimate payer of your sins so that you may live. This is also a wonderful opportunity to share this evidence with those who have yet to examine all the facts and come to a knowledge of the Christ through the workings of the Holy Ghost. Are there really people who do not understand the virgin birth, the life, the death, the resurrection of Jesus for their life? Just look at the òself helpö section of any book store or library. They are full of ways to take care of yourself, but incredibly few that encourage you to allow God to be God and let Him take care of you through the cross of Calvary. That is why they are called òself-helpö. Now is the time to help with the Gospel. Help your neighbor know the Death and life of Christ that they can understand their salvation through the evidence presented with the bloody cross and the empty tomb.

HE IS RISEN! HIRIH,TIMCT! In His most Holy Name we pray. AMEN.

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING

KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS. AMEN+

Offering / Prayers

There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of judgment

HE IS RISEN INDEED! HALLELUIA, THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE!