

I'm going to be very brief because our seminarian Ben Bray is going to give our Annual Catholic Appeal talk. In our gospel today we have the story of the two disciples walking to Emmaus when an unknown figure overtakes them. After discussing their experience with Jesus, the two listen as this stranger opens the scriptures for them and puts the events of the past three days in a new light. After they invite their new teacher to stay with them their eyes are opened to Jesus in the breaking of bread.

This story could be a meditation on the whole Christian life. But today I just want to make a single point. The road to Emmaus is a mirror image of the Fall of Adam and Eve. The first meal in the Bible is when Eve offers Adam the forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. In the eating of this meal, Genesis says, their eyes were opened to a new shame that original sin, and all sin, brings to humanity.

In the Gospel passage today we have another meal. Jesus takes, blesses, and gives bread to the two disciples – recalling for us the

Eucharist, whether or not this event was the sacrament itself. With that their eyes are also opened reminding us of the first meal in the Garden.

But this time rather than bringing shame, the two see that Jesus is present, having come among us to heal us from our sin and shame.

And He has been accompanying them on their road the whole time.

We are often troubled by the world and its seeming failures and confusion, just as those two Disciples were on the Road to Emmaus. Why do things happen as they do in our lives? Sometimes we misread the meaning of our lives. This story is a lesson for us. In keeping company with Jesus in prayer, as Cleopas and his companion did, in learning the scriptures, as Jesus taught them on the road, and in the Eucharist Jesus established— even if we don't see Jesus, we can still find Jesus. And in His company we learn the meaning of things in our lives, and will find peace as long as Jesus stays with us.