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The sermon text for today is based on Luke 24:13-35

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Who is alive today? No doubt because you are alive and participating in this amazing thing called life you would have faced some challenges or trials before.

You would have found yourself confused, or even questioning the circumstances of events that have affected your wellbeing or you find yourself wondering why you have been let down. You walk the road, the way in life and sometimes that road is long, dusty, hard on not just your feet but your mind and soul as you know there is a bit of distance still to go before you get to the place you set out for. Yet do you know who walks with you?

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

Have you found that too in your own life that along your way, others might walk with you and discuss your situation offer support, advice or even some comfort, yet there is still uncertainty about the road ahead? No matter how much

discussion there seems to be no answer. But do you know who walks with you and is the truth to all your questions.

Jesus asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” “What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

How often in your discussions in life with others as you walk the way along the road of life have you hoped in something or someone to remove or change your situation? Yet do you know who the stranger is that walks with you?

Jesus said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And

beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

Do you find that even if this stranger along your path or of life tells you about the Messiah and all the things He has done and even with the explanation of this Messiah the promised one that God who loved the world sent to save, not condemn the lost, the weary, the broken, the blind, those who cannot walk because of sin? Do you invite this stranger to stay with you a while as you walk along the path of your life?

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

Do you see then whom was walking with you and talking with you in the mercy of fellowship and communion, where the host, the stranger often as you and I walk the road ahead in life, the tough, rocky, winding long road? The one who says take and eat this is my body, take and drink this is my blood given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do your

hearts not burn within you of hope, peace, joy and love as you hear the very word of God breathed into your whole being?

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

And friends do you after seeing whom that stranger was who has walked with you and talked with you in every part of your life, whom by faith you see clearly, Jesus your lord and my lord, go and tell others the truth of the one who in your life now is the way in life, the truth and the life now and forever. Do you share how you recognized Jesus in His mercy and love toward you and those around us?

Be bold and walk with Jesus as He will always walk with you no matter how long, how difficult or how dangerous the road ahead is. For Jesus, the Risen Lord Jesus is with you always until the end of the age. Your sins are forgiven so you are free to walk in His name. Amen.