



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Easter*

APRIL 26, 2020

St. John the Evangelist Church
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503
www.stjohnsaltoona.org

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CO-VID 19: Prayer to Mary, Health of the Sick



O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way
and opened the Scriptures to us?

Luke 24:32

A Few Words from the Pastor:

POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS ABOUT THE PANDEMIC: In a recent interview, Pope Francis was asked how he is managing in this challenging time of the coronavirus:

How am I living this spiritually? I'm praying more, because I feel I should. And I think of people. That's what concerns me: people. Thinking of people anoints me, it does me good, it takes me out of my self-preoccupation. Of course I have my areas of selfishness. On Tuesdays, my confessor comes, and I take care of things there.

I'm thinking of my responsibilities now, and what will come afterwards. What will be my service as Bishop of Rome, as head of the church, in the aftermath? That aftermath has already begun to be revealed as tragic and painful, which is why we must be thinking about it now. The Vatican's Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development has been working on this, and meeting with me.

My major concern—at least what comes through my prayer—is how to accompany and be closer to the people of God. Hence the livestreaming of the 7 a.m. Mass [I celebrate each morning] which many people follow and appreciate, as well as the addresses I've given, and the March 27 event in St. Peter's Square. Hence, too, the step-up in activities of the office of papal charities, attending to the sick and hungry.

I'm living this as a time of great uncertainty. It's a time for inventing, for creativity. The people of God need their pastor to be close to them, not to overprotect himself.

The creativity of the Christian needs to show forth in opening up new horizons, opening windows, opening transcendence toward God and toward people, and in creating new ways of being at home. It's not easy to be confined to your house. What comes to my mind is a verse from the Aeneid in the midst of defeat: the counsel is not to give up, but save yourself for better times, for in those times remembering what has happened will help us. Take care of yourselves for a future that will come. And remembering in that future what has happened will do you good.

Take care of the now, for the sake of tomorrow. Always creatively, with a simple creativity, capable of inventing something new each day. Inside the home that's not hard to discover, but don't run away, don't take refuge in escapism, which in this time is of no use to you.

Prayer for a Spiritual Communion

St. Alphonsus de Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

April Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

Freedom from Addiction

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30;
Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17,
21ab; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59, or, for the
memorial, Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-
24; Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25;
Jn 10:1-10

FOOD DRIVE: Just a reminder that we will continue to collect food weekly for our local food banks. The need is greater than ever now. Simply drop off your donations under the rectory carport. Monetary donations can go into the offertory box. Simply add a note that your donation is for our food bank collection.



MASS INTENTIONS: Although we cannot celebrate mass together, Monsignor Becker will be saying Mass privately each day for the following Mass intentions. Please remember them in your prayers also.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday Apr. 26 – Second Sunday of Easter

Mass for *People of the Parish*

Monday Apr. 27 – Easter Weekday

Mass for *Teresa Geishauer* requested by
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Chverchko

Tuesday Apr. 28 – Easter Weekday

Mass for *Serena Stevens* requested by
Ron Boland

Wednesday Apr. 29 – Easter Weekday

Mass for *John Schmidt* requested by
Richard & Joyce Lowe

Thursday Apr. 30 – Easter Weekday

Mass for *Joe Robeson*

Friday May 1 – Easter Weekday

Mass for *Ida Prospero* requested by
John Prospero

Sunday May 3 – Third Sunday of Easter

Mass for *People of the Parish*

YOU CAN GET OUR BULLETIN EMAILED TO YOU EACH

WEEK: The bulletin is the center of our parish communication, and we want to keep you informed. We are now offering to send you the parish bulletin directly to your email every week. It's a great way to stay connected anytime. You can begin by using this link:

<https://ebulletin.jspaluch.com>

or by texting the word 'BULLETIN' to 94090.

THANK YOU!: Many thanks to all who have contributed their weekly offering by dropping it into the box in the rectory carport or mailing it to the office. You can also place your envelopes in our mailbox beside the Parish Center door on Lotz Avenue. Thank you for your weekly support to our parish, our mission collections and the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your financial support is vital and continues to be so especially during the COVID-19 crisis. We'd also like to remind you that Online Giving is the electronic way to participate in weekly offertory. Online Giving is intended to be a convenient tool for you to use, and we strongly support both Online Giving and Offering Envelopes for contributions to the parish. Start giving online today!

1. Visit our church website at stjohnsaltoona.org and click on the online giving link.
 2. Create an account.
 3. Schedule your recurring gifts.
- Please prayerfully consider giving online.*

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at giny.reeder@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

**Baby Adam • Baby Aiden • Baby Maddie • Cari Ann
James Aubrey • Julie Beiswenger • Robert Cole
Millie Grace Capon • Betty Dennis
Michael DeStefano • Jim Duffy • Bernadine Farrell
Kathy Felty • Christine Finklestine • Helen Fornwalt
Leann Frazier • Molly Grenfell • Denny Horton
Randy Horton • Brian Kopp • Lisa • Joan Litzinger
Sherri Maffettone • Louis Jack Mathias • Bryson Miller
Mildred Miller • Susie Miller • Barbara Moore
Donna Moyer • Ailani Myers • Nancy • Patricia Olson
Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher • Karen Price
Ron Peschock • Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker
Vicki Resley • Allison Ritchey • Olga Romerowicz
Cari Roth • Mike Rudolph • Fr. Robert Rustin
Peggy Seiler • Bruce Shank • Anne Showalter
Tim & Dina Temofonte • Patty Teufel • Rose Wargo
Lois Werfel • Carol White • William Wieland
Noah Wills • Milan & Family**

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:

**Michael A Maier, father of Mike (Loane) Maier
Richard Bender - brother of Carol Field
Mary Jo Sibert - sister of Carol Field**

May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

Stewardship at St. John's

April 12, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 3,396.00
Loose	\$ 2,467.00
Catholic Education	\$ 35.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 175.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$ 10.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 450.00
Easter Offering	\$ 1,865.00
Holy Thursday	\$ 255.00
Good Friday	\$ 195.00
Food Bank Donations	\$ 315.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	<i>\$ 9,163.00</i>
Online Giving	\$ 1,788.00
<i>Total Offertory</i>	<i>\$ 10,951.00</i>

Restore*Repair*Rejoice

Payments/Donations \$144,404
Pledge Payment Committed \$30,391
Total Pledges/Donations \$174,976

Catholic Ministries Drive

Last Update: February 29, 2020
Target \$ 44,423
Payments/Donations \$ 18,550
Pledge Payments Committed \$ 1,000
Total Gifts \$ 19,550



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Easter* APRIL 26, 2020

Sunday Readings

April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Reading 1

Acts 2:14, 22–23

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: “You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it. For David says of him:

*I saw the Lord ever before me,
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.
Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted;
my flesh, too, will dwell in hope,
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption.
You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.*

“My brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day. But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption. God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured him forth, as you see and hear.”

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 16:1–2, 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11

R. (11a) **Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;
I say to the LORD, “My Lord are you.”

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.

R. **Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

I bless the LORD who counsels me;
even in the night my heart exhorts me.

I set the LORD ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

R. **Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

or:

R. Alleluia.

You will show me the path to life,
abounding joy in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Reading 2

1 Pt 1:17–21

Beloved: If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb.

He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Gospel

Lk 24:13–35

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.



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LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

Today's readings look back at both the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, remembering the promise given to David that Jesus would be raised from the dead. The Psalm and First Peter look forward to our lives as we await our resurrection and consider the sacrifice made by Jesus. Luke tells us the story of another experience of the risen Jesus. The disciples unknowingly walk with Jesus and tell him of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Jesus himself looks back with them to the promises made to Moses and all the prophets about his death and resurrection. Still they do not know who he is. It is only when he blesses and breaks bread and shares it with them that they realize it is Jesus. Then they race back to Jerusalem to tell the others.

SLOW OF HEART

After the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, two of the disciples hit the road and try to escape all the uncertainty, fear, remorse, and guilt they feel. They feel the same regret that the disciples feel in Acts and First Peter. They meet another man traveling the same road and are astonished when he seems to know nothing about the events that so occupy their thoughts. These events have consumed them, have broken their hearts, have left them downcast and blind to the very person who joins them on their journey. Their companion, Jesus, takes them through their own tradition, through the Old Testament promise that someone just like him would come, be killed, and would rise from the dead. Though they do not recognize him by the words alone, they do not want him to leave. Lucky for them he stays.

IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

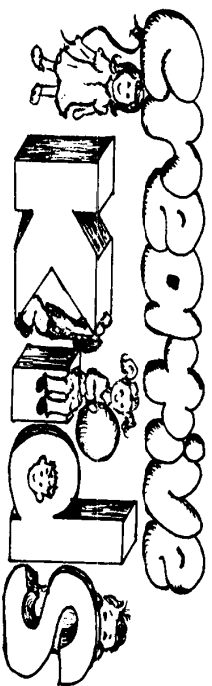
Despite all the hints, the disciples do not recognize Jesus. They remain consumed with their own confusion and fear and they cannot see who is right in front of them. It is only with the blessing, breaking, and sharing of the bread that they suddenly recognize Jesus. No words, however insightful, can penetrate the confusion and fear the disciples feel. Through the simple act of breaking and blessing bread they recognize Jesus. Even as their "hearts were burning," their minds did not know. How often do we not see what is right before us because we are so consumed with our own worries, regrets, concerns? Like the disciples it takes an action like the breaking of the bread, a reminder of the death of Jesus, his sacrifice, to get us to understand what our hearts already know.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:14, 22–33
Psalm 16:1–2, 5, 7–11
1 Peter 1:17–21
Luke 24:13–35

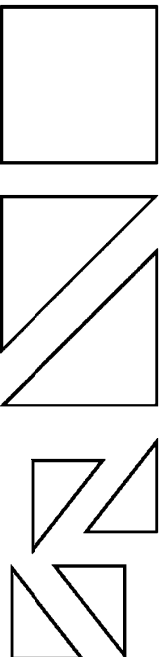
Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way
and opened the Scriptures to us?

Luke 24:32



Recognizing Shapes

1. Make your favorite sandwich.
2. Decide how it should be cut to make two triangles.
3. Now move the triangles around so they create one big triangle instead of one big square cut in two.
4. Now figure out how to cut your sandwich so you end up with four small triangles.
5. Use the triangles to make different shapes.
 - Can you make a large triangle?
 - Can you make a large square?
 - Can you make 2 medium triangles?
 - Can you make 2 medium squares?
 - Can you make 1 medium triangle and 1 medium square?
 - What else can you create?
6. Enjoy eating your creations!



GOD'S WORD FOR CHILDREN!

Third Sunday of Easter Year A

Jesus walked and talked with two disciples who did not recognize Him. They invited Him to supper.

Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11
1 Pt 1:17-21 Lk 24:13-35

Directions: Can you recognize the words below?
Draw a line to the words that match each other.

JESUS

EDAD

DEAD

ROVEREF

ALIVE

VEALI

FOREVER

SSUEJ



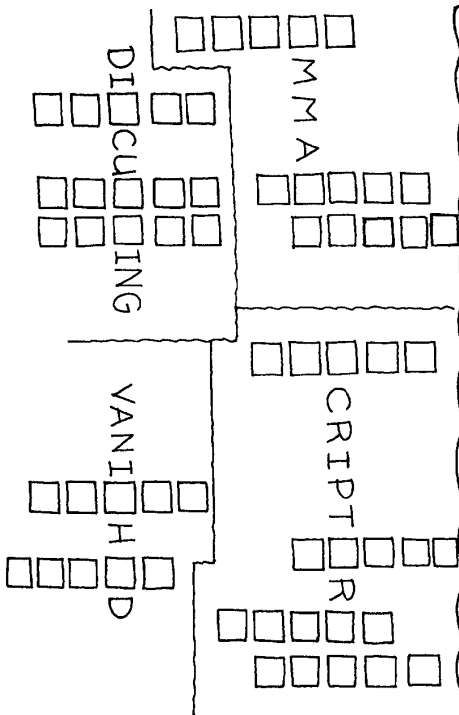
write it in all the groups of boxes below

By doing this you'll reveal the missing words.

See how they fit in the blanks to tell this story.

If you need help, read Luke 24:13–35 in your Bible.

Two disciples were going to _____. Another man joined them, and wanted to know what they were _____. As they traveled, the stranger told the disciples about important _____. Later, when the man broke bread, the disciples became aware of who he was. But then he quickly _____.



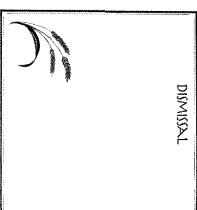
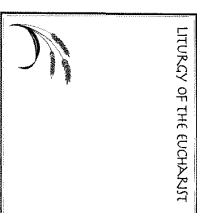
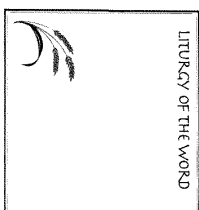
Imagine how wonderful it would be to meet Jesus walking along one of the streets where you live. Like the two people in the Gospel on the road to Emmaus, you could learn so much from listening to Jesus as you traveled with him. Do you wonder why the two disciples didn't recognize Jesus? Sometimes we don't recognize that Jesus is with us today either.

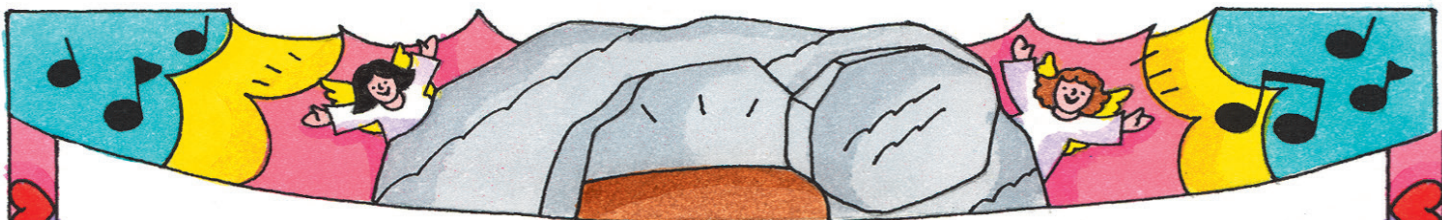
There is a place where you can meet Jesus just as his friends did so long ago. Here are some clues. Can you guess where it is?

- *In this place people of all different ages and nationalities gather and recognize Jesus in a special way—just like the two disciples on the road. Did you guess?*
- *In this place we hear stories about Moses and the prophets and all the scripture stories about Jesus—some of the same stories Jesus shared with his friends. Still guessing?*
- *In this place we are invited to share a meal—just as Jesus took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and shared it with his friends. Do you know it yet?*
- *From this place we are sent out to spread the Good News, just as the disciples who met Jesus did when they returned to Jerusalem and talked with the others. Now do you have it?*

If these actions sound familiar it is because they happen each time we are at Mass: the Entrance, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the Dismissal. The Mass is one of the places we meet Jesus today. Can you think of others?

Draw a picture of a symbol or action that happens in each part of the Mass.



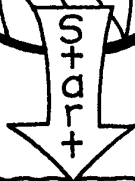


April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Follow the directions that will get
the disciples and Jesus to the town of Emmaus.

Look at the arrows for help.



A. Go 3 dots down.

E. Go 3 dots down.

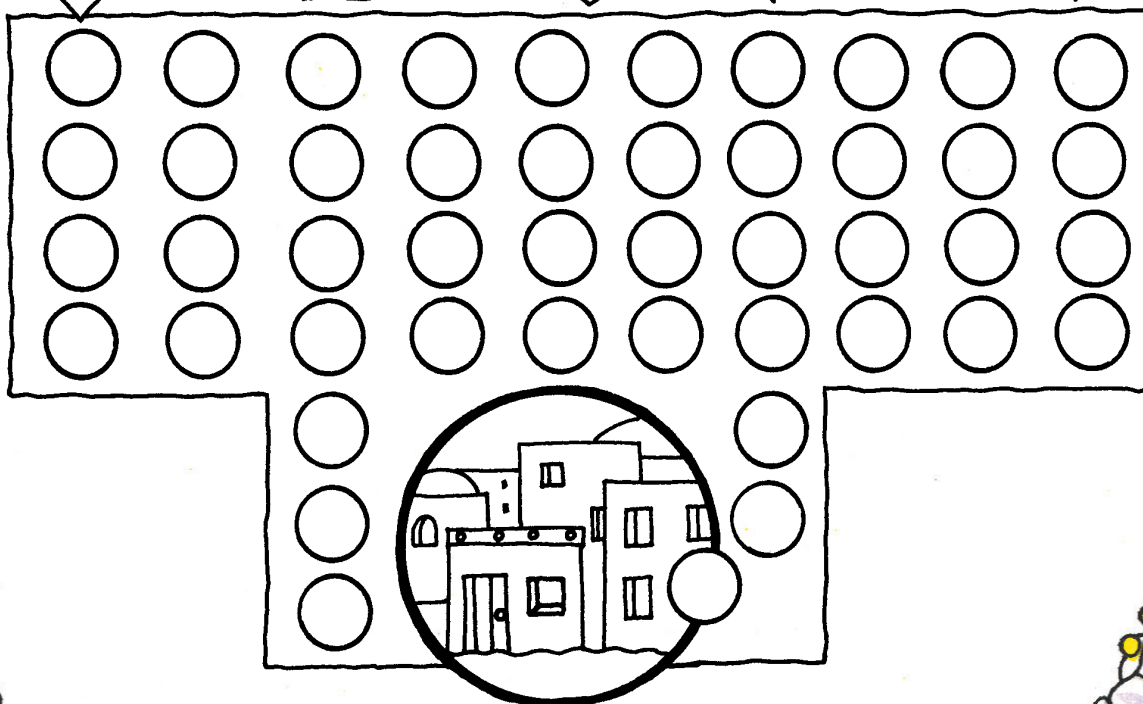
B. Go 4 dots right.

F. Go 2 dots left.

C. Go 2 dots up.

G. Go 3 dots down.

D. Go 4 dots right.





Two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village . . . called Emmaus,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

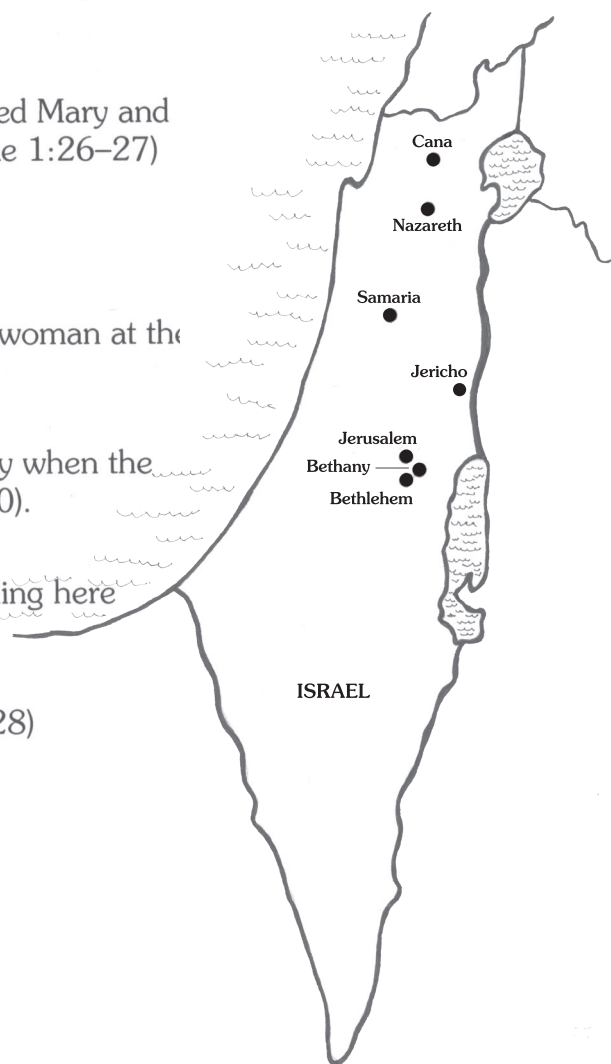
Luke 24:13, 14



FROM PLACE TO PLACE

Today's Gospel (Luke 24:13–35), about Jesus meeting two disciples on the road to Emmaus, is a story about something that happened after Jesus' resurrection. Think about the conversation that took place when the disciples met a stranger, whom they finally recognized as Jesus, as they walked along. The mention of these two towns, Emmaus and Jerusalem, reminded people of certain events in the life of Jesus. Other towns named in this page remind us of other important events. Match the towns with the events. Can you remember the stories about what happened in these places?

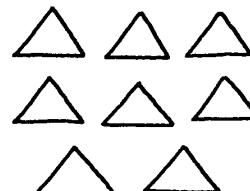
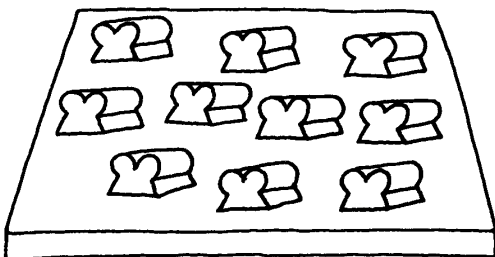
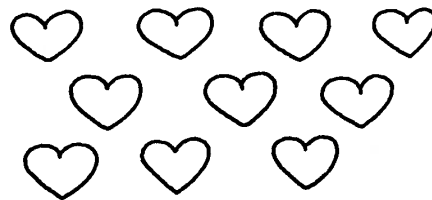
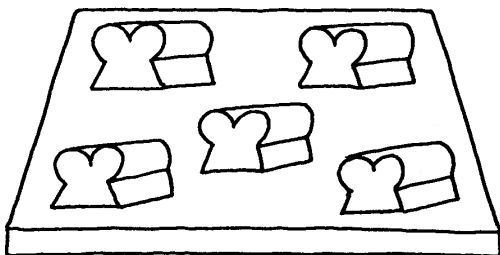
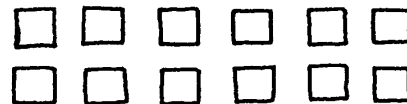
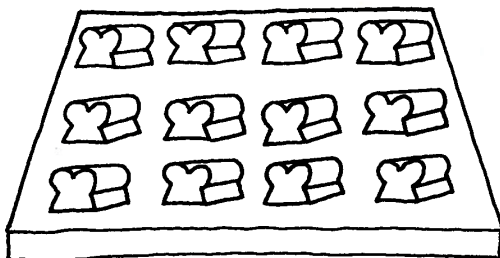
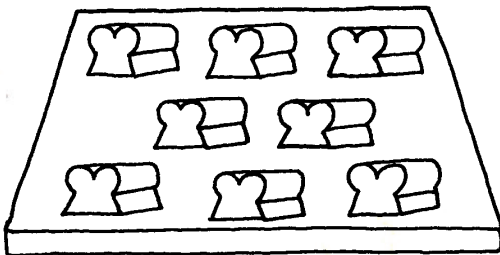
<i>Bethlehem</i>	The place where Jesus visited his friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (John 11:1)
<i>Cana</i>	The town where the angel Gabriel visited Mary and where Jesus lived as a young child (Luke 1:26–27)
<i>Nazareth</i>	Jesus was born in this city (Luke 2:4).
<i>Jerusalem</i>	The country where Jesus talked to the woman at the well (John 4:4–5)
<i>Samaria</i>	The traveler was on the road to this city when the good Samaritan found him (Luke 10:30).
<i>Bethany</i>	Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding here (John 2:1).
<i>Jericho</i>	The place where Jesus died (Luke 19:28)



When Jesus broke a piece of bread,
the disciples who were with him recognized him!

Count the loaves of bread on each tabletop.

Then draw a line from each group
to the same number of shapes.



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