

Jesus, risen, meets his disciples

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

When Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, they joined the other disciples and their friends. As soon as they entered the room where the other people were, someone said, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Peter." The room was electric with the excitement that somehow Jesus had overcome death and had visited his friends again.

And in an instant, although no one saw him enter, Jesus was in the room with them. "Peace be with you," he said.

The men in the room no longer acted excited about the possible resurrection of Jesus. Instead, now that he was here with them, they thought his ghost was haunting them, and they were terrified. Some of them tried to open the door to escape, but Jesus spoke to them again in the calm, affectionate voice the men all knew very well.

"Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts?" When the mood of the men had lessened from panic to frightened curiosity, Jesus continued talking to them to try to assure them there was nothing to be afraid of. He wanted to convince them he was with them, just as he had been before his crucifixion. He offered them proof.

Jesus moved one foot forward. A mark could be seen under the strap of his sandal. He extended both of his hands, palms facing the ceiling. "Look at my hands and my feet," he said. "that it is I myself." The disciples were reluctant to touch

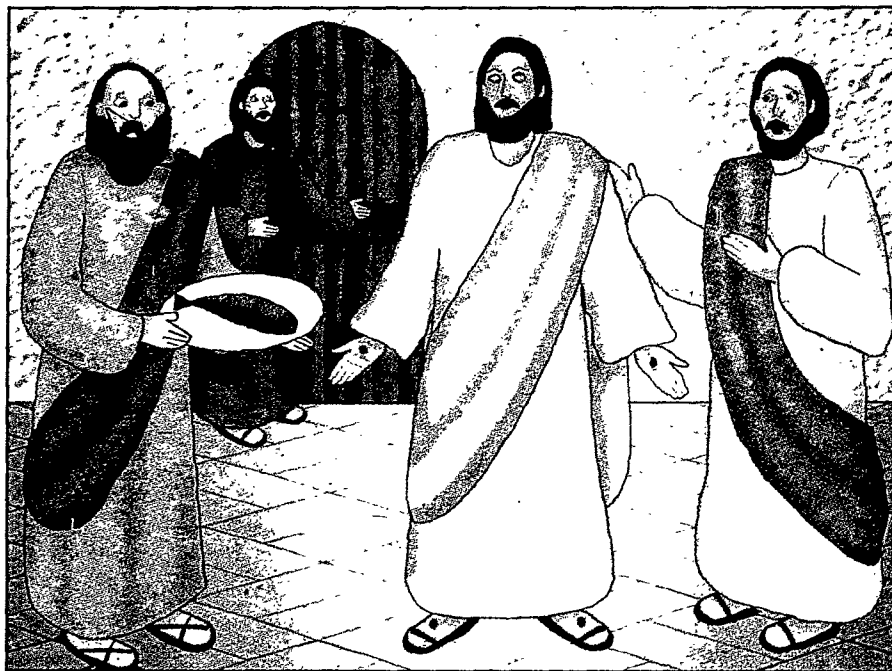


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers



Jesus. They looked at each other, wondering if anyone would do so. "Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

The disciples were no longer afraid. The peace of Jesus touched them as they touched Jesus, and they were filled with joy. Then Jesus asked them a question. "Have you anything here to eat?" One of the men quickly brought a baked fish. They gave Jesus a piece of the fish. He took it and ate it in front of them.

"Everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the

prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Jesus told them. "It is written the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." Jesus motioned with his hands towards his friends. "You are witnesses to these things."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Luke 24

Q&A

1. Why were the disciples afraid of Jesus?
2. How did Jesus convince his friends?

Bible Account

The four Gospels were written to document the life, genealogy and ministry of Jesus. Because of these books, we know about the miracles Jesus performed, his many acts of love for the people, the sacrifice he made for us when he died on the cross and how he rose from the dead. The Acts of the Apostles records how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to empower Christians in and around Jerusalem and what they were then able to do. The letters of Paul to many men, written to Paul's friends, tell us that the apostles, who did not understand we can still learn from these letters today.

The New Testament closes with the Book of Revelation, written by John. It records the triumphs of Jesus and the creation of a new heaven and a new earth.

St. Stephen of Perm

Stephen of Perm was a Russian missionary to the Uralians, south of the Ural mountains.

He believed people should be able to worship God in their native language. He translated the Mass and parts of the Scripture into the language of the region where he ministered. He even developed a written language and set up schools to the Ural people could learn it.

Stephen earned the respect of both the church elders and the people he preached to. He was appointed the first Bishop of Perm. He died in 1396. We commemorate him on April 26.

Puzzle

Circle T for true or F for false to answer the following questions. Answers on page 11.

1. Matthew is one of the four Gospels. T F
2. The Holy Spirit came on Christmas. (Acts 2) T F
3. Jesus was baptized in the Nile River. (Mark 1) T F
4. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. (Luke 2) T F
5. Jesus changed water into wine. (John 2) T F
6. There were 25 original disciples. (Matthew 10) T F
7. Paul wrote about his great revelation. (Revelation 1) T F

Bible Trivia

On what feast day did God send the Holy Spirit to Jerusalem? Send answer to Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, PO Box 2479, Rochester, NY 14624. Include your name, address, school and grade. All entries must be received by May 1. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner of the last trivia question is Corinna Spezzano, a ninth grader at York Central School. In response to who besides the priest may read the Gospel during Mass, she wrote, "During Mass, a deacon and a priest are the only people that can read the Gospel."

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