

April 27, 2025 SALT CO

VIA LUCIS: STATION V

“Jesus is known in the breaking of the bread”.

Luke 24:28-32 (33-35)

WELCOME TO THE SALT CO!

Welcome those who are joining us online.

Let us know you're here! Email us at seasonedadults@calvarywestlake.org

Tech with Tim- Tuesday, May 6 1:00-2:00 Room 2114- sign up clip board, name and email

This is the HUB of Seasoned Adult Ministry. For anyone new...by SEASONED ADULTS we mean:

SEASONED AS IN...

Chronologically-- we've lived a lot of seasons of life

BUT more importantly-

Spiritually--- ...like when sodium and chlorine combined are transformed through a visible **reaction** to make a NEW chemical compound called: SALT... by the grace of God's Holy Spirit in us, when we receive Christ into our lives, we become like THIS [gesture: one hand—two hands—joined together. And we experience **a LIFE LONG transformational spiritual PROCESS** of becoming more and more like Christ himself.

JESUS CALLS US THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

And this is the SALT CO (where we pull off the road to gather, AND share stories about how to faithfully navigate the ever-changing terrain on Route 60+; and Route 60++...and +++...

A place where we:

Re-fresh

Re-fuel

And sometimes even...*Re-tool*

Wonderful Easter last weekend! Here's the truth- every Sunday is Easter Sunday! We are gathered here not because of Jesus' teachings, as vital as they are, but because something that *happened that launched the Christian movement- the resurrection of Jesus*. Two thousand years later we're still trying to wrap our heads, hearts and hands around the implications that He is risen.

If you want to do a deep dive into how we *know* this happened, I recommend this book I became aware of at a pivotal moment in my own life and ministry. It's a thick book I couldn't put it down.

Jesus and the Resurrection

It's written by New Testament scholar and historian, theologian, pastor, bishop and professor N.T. Wright.

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION (VIA LUCIS)

This Spring we are exploring a relatively new practice that complements the 14 Stations of the Cross we just did on Good Friday. The Via Lucis comprises 14 Stations of Jesus's post resurrection encounters before he ascended (HE IS RISEN!!), all based in the witness of the Gospels, the book of Acts, and Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Take a look at that a copy of the Via Lucis stations on your tables.

A quick refresh. We finished last season with Jesus coming alongside two people on the road to Emmaus. To them He was a Stranger asking questions that opened them up to their grief over the tragic end to the One in whom they had placed all their hope.

At that station we wondered why they did not know it was Jesus' walking alongside them. Luke wants us to ask this question. It leads to asking why is it we do not recognize His presence with US?

When we were at the Third Station, we talked about how Mary's grief fogged her vision when she encountered Jesus in the garden outside the tomb. At the Fourth Station Cleopas *and his wife* (check John 19:25) were also in grief. It's hard to see what you can't even imagine. They had no CATEGORY for this- Jesus the Second Adam, the new human, still Himself, yet qualitatively different. God knows we need help.

It's why there was a Via Lucis!

The Stranger alongside these two on the road *wants to be known*. You can hear it in his exasperation:

“Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

Luke 24:25-26

Luke tells us, to flesh it all out, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, the Stranger interpreted to the two the things about himself in all the scriptures. Can you imagine what that would be like? A walking bible study with the Risen Lord?

The road to Emmaus leads us to our Fifth Station.

Via Lucis Station V

“Jesus is known in the breaking of the bread”.

Luke 24:28-32

To set this up let me start with a question. Ever have someone not recognize you because for some reason you were “out of context? My mom was a high school English teacher. She would run into her students at the grocery store and sometimes they would ask, “*What are you doing here?*”

This is the subject of our Fifth Station. We join this couple in their own home, in total surprise in seeing Jesus where they did not expect him.

Here's how we'll enter this scene, this Station of His resurrection:

1. To start we'll just get settled and quiet. Not reading anything. Just listening. Taking in the scene.
I'll read the scripture for this station.
2. Then, we'll display a rendering of the scene, in this case by Rembrandt, on the screens and invite you to gaze on the scene for a few minutes. If you want a closer look at the image, the table guides will also share the printed a copy provided in an envelope for each table.
3. Then I'll read the scripture a second time.
4. I'll ask you to write, or draw, or sketch, or list what you're getting from seeing yourself in this Station.
5. Then we'll take time at your tables for those who would like to to share some of your thoughts and impressions.

Folks online at home our SALT CO team would love to hear your thoughts too-you can email them to me at seasonedadults@calvarywestlake.org.

Ready? Let's step into the Way of Light.

Get yourself settled. I'll be reading from the Gospel of Luke. In the first reading I invite you to just take in Luke's description.

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.

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?"

Luke 24:28-32

I invite you to see this house where Cleopas and his wife live. See the door as you approach with this Stranger. What do you see inside as you open the door? Maybe there is a fireplace. See a table with some chairs. What hangs on the walls? There is a candle on the table. See yourself putting the bread you brought in the middle of the table.

Watch what He does after He steps inside this home.

To help us with this second reading I'll put up this painting by Rembrandt. If you can't see the screens, we have copies of the art in envelopes on your tables.

REMBRANDT PAINTING

What might they be feeling? What might be their thoughts? What questions might they have?

SECOND READING

See yourself at this table. What's going through your mind and heart? What are your questions?

What do you want to say to Him? What do you hear Him saying to you?

Now take a few minutes to write, draw, list, express with key words what it is that you are seeing, hearing, thinking, feeling, wondering, what you are curious about- your questions. Your questions are important!

TABLE TALK [30 minutes]

1. Tell a story about not being recognized or not recognizing someone else. Why do you think that happened?
2. How did you picture Jesus entering the home of this couple?
3. What do you think were some of their thoughts, feelings, questions?
4. What might be some of your thoughts, feelings and questions?
5. What do you imagine Him saying to you?

6. Are there situations in your own life where you had a sense that He was with you? Would you be willing to share one?
7. Why do you think Jesus wants you to know He is with you?

Via Lucis Station V

“Jesus is known in the breaking of the bread”.

Luke 24:28-32

I see six moves at this Station.

After a seven-mile walk, about three hours- we don't know how many of those miles or hours the Stranger walked with them- late in the day came the first move. They said to him,

*I. **“Stay with us.”***

Two things about this move. And I think they are connected. One is an invitation out of a desire to spend more time. To extend the conversation. To get to know this Stranger, better. It is the opposite of being in a hurry, of wanting to get on with your day, of wanting time alone. *This is about curiosity.* Wanting to know more.

Curiosity leads to the second thing- a beautiful picture of hospitality. In the Greek of the New Testament this is XENOPHILIA, literally “love of the stranger”. Without knowing, look who this couple has just invited to stay with them!

We are told in Hebrews 13,

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Hebrews 13:2

This leads me to ask “Are we curious about people we don't know, or about people we hardly know? What might they have to share with us, show us, help us see that we as yet cannot see?”

The Lord wants us hospitable. To others. To Him! He will not force His way into your life or mine. He waits for our invitation. He stands at the door...

Invitation makes possible the second move:

II. “So He went in to stay with them.”

When someone comes into our home they have entered our most intimate spaces. Think about what hangs on your walls, the books on your shelves, the photos on the coffee table. Our homes reflect who we are, what we value, our state of array or disarray!

Years ago, Pastor Bob Munger preached a sermon that has been published and distributed all over the world, “My Heart Christ’s Home”. He helped us picture what it might be like to allow our Lord into every room, not just the living room where we host our guests, but the kitchen, the dining room, the master bedroom, even that closet we have kept locked and hidden. It has a wonderful ending I will not spoil! I put the title on your Table Guide.

Would you like Him to come see you in your real life? When you’re ready, He will accept your invitation, and mine, to come stay with us.

Then comes the third move:

III. “When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them.”

Luke is intentional with these four words: take, bless, break, give. It’s what Jesus did when He fed 5,000 (Luke 9:16). How many other times did Cleopas and Mary watch Jesus do this as they shared meals with Him? In the Upper Room that night of His betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to His followers. He said,

“Take, eat, do this in remembrance of Me...”

These famous words are translated into every language and carved into the sides of Communion tables all over the world. In *remembrance*, because we forget. And when we forget we lose sight of Him with us, don’t

we? He could be right here, and we might not even recognize Him. We need to be “re-minded”. To “re-member” is to re-connect. To “re-call” is to be called back again. Again, and again.

It's why we celebrate the Lord's Supper repeatedly. Jesus commanded us to do this! He knows us well. He knows how on our own, by ourselves, our ability to recognize Him with us begins to dim. It's why we bring bread and juice to people who can't come together. It's why we've started this new ministry called Homebound Bridge. When we're alone we begin to forget. Explain.

So comes the fourth move, the turning point move. Look at the painting.

IV. ***“Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him.”***

I love the look on Cleopas' face. His wife is down on her knees next to Jesus in the shadows...

We say, “seeing is believing”. But it is also often the case that “believing is seeing”.

The word for “recognition” is GNOSAN. It is knowing that comes through experience. It is a relational kind of knowing as opposed to intellectual knowledge. It has its roots in trust. They know Jesus this way! Taking the bread, giving thanks, breaking the bread in His hands, offering it to them—all so “familiar” (the root of our word “family”—who we are, what we do together). What Jesus does makes Him recognizable to them, gets past their pain and grief, their confusion and doubting.

This is what this Station is offering you and me. The whole world. *To recognize Jesus in our midst we need to know His Story*, the one He re-told these two as they walked on the road. We also need to come together repeatedly to share in the life He made possible for us in His death and His resurrection, symbolized by sharing bread and drinking the cup.

Then we are ready to handle the next move:

V. ***“Then He vanished from their sight.”***

This translation of the original Greek is inadequate. The literal rendering of APHANTOS EGENETO is “*became invisible*”. That’s actually quite different than “vanish”. To “vanish” implies “no longer here”, no longer “present”, gone somewhere else. That’s NOT what this is saying. Jesus is no longer *visible*. But He is *here*! Remember what He told us?

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20

“Abide in me as I abide in you.”

John 15:3

“As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be completely one...”

John 17:20-23

And the testimony from the apostle Paul who said simply,

“The Lord is near.”

Philippians 4:5

We do not see Jesus with our physical eyes. We do not need to. We have the Fourteen Stations of the Via Lucis! Now we see Him with the eyes of our hearts.

The apostle Paul prays for all of us like this:

“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you...”

Ephesians 1:17-18

So comes the next move. They say to each other,

VI. ***“Were not our hearts burning within us?”***

“...while he talked with us on the road” Recognizing Jesus with them led them to reflect on how He was with them *before* they recognized that He was with them. I think we know how this goes. Our spiritual hindsight is more like 20/20. We as Seasoned Adults have many seasons to reflect on, don't we? Seeing now how He was there at a turn in the road, a key decision, how we made it through a crisis, what he was showing us about people, about ourselves. Good stuff. The stuff of our stories, our journeys on Route 60+, ++, +++, our adventure. About our own burning hearts. Seeing with the eyes of our hearts that led to the moment or moments when we turned ourselves over to Him.

I included on your Table Sheets one example of one man who wrote down his story so he could remember it. Not a bad idea. His name was Blaise Pascal.

As a result of these first six moves, here is a what happened:

VII. ***“That same hour they got up [ANASTANTES] and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.”***

The word for “got up” is the same word for “resurrection” These two recognize that Jesus has risen indeed, and so they also “rise” up, get up, stand up- read they are “mobilized” to return that same hour, at night, make the seven mile trek, no doubt this time in less than three hours, to bear witness the fellow believers to the news. What they had hoped, *was true!* To encourage them with their own experience of how they met Him. *Christian witness by Christian with-ness*. It's what we do isn't it? Because He rose, we also “rise”!

Where do you and I need to rise up and go?

It's a good segue to WALK the TALK!

WALK THE TALK building underlines

1. Thank you all for your help with Journey to the Cross!!
 - a. 50 SALT CO signed up to help
 - b. 1,000+ took the Journey!
 - c. 598 prayer cards filled
2. Cars We Love to D.R.I.V.E. Car Show, June 14- check the web site

Finish with prayer from Glenn Byer Via Lucis. Let's say this together:

“O Christ, broken for us once,
 but ever present in the Eucharist,
 enlighten our minds to your presence in the world.
 Nourish our hearts so that we can be inspired
 to service of our brothers and sisters in need,
 and to recognize you
 amid the brokenness and tragedies of the world.
 Let us be signs to them of your grace and peace.
 Dwell with us always,
 whether in the evenings or the mornings of our lives.
 We need your love and support
 all the days of our lives,
 from our beginnings in the womb to our last breath.
 And even when sin prevents us
 from seeing the signs of your presence,

hold us in your care and keep us from harm.

Be the unseen guest at our tables,

so that they will be like Emmaus,

a place where Christ is recognized

in the breaking of the bread.

In preparing and sharing meals with others,

let the joy of the Resurrection

and the gift of Baptism in Christ

dwell in our homes.”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Glenn Byer Via Lucis, p.25

BLESSING

FOR TABLE SHEET

1. N.T. Wright. The Resurrection of the Son of God. Fortress Press. 2003
2. Veritas Forum with N.T. Wright on the resurrection:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cz201Od_Xe4
3. Robert Boyd Munger. My Heart Christ's Home. InterVarsity Press. 1986
4. Blaise Pascal was a famous mathematician, scientist, and inventor. He converted to Christianity and became one of the great apologists for the faith.

Pascal's vision of God occurred on November 23, 1654. It lasted two hours, beginning at 10:30 pm and ending at 12:30 am. We know this because when Pascal died, it was discovered that he had sewn his account of that vision inside his jacket, so as to always have it with him. This is what Pascal experienced that night, in his words:

The year of grace 1654,

Monday, 23 November, feast of St. Clement, pope and martyr, and others in the martyrology.

Vigil of St. Chrysogonus, martyr, and others.

From about half past ten at night until about half past midnight,

FIRE.

GOD of Abraham, GOD of Isaac, GOD of Jacob
not of the philosophers and of the learned.

Certitude. Certitude. Feeling. Joy. Peace.

GOD of Jesus Christ.

My God and your God.

Your GOD will be my God.

Forgetfulness of the world and of everything, except GOD.

He is only found by the ways taught in the Gospel.

Grandeur of the human soul.

Righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I have known you.

Joy, joy, joy, tears of joy.

I have departed from him:

They have forsaken me, the fount of living water.

My God, will you leave me?

Let me not be separated from him forever.

This is eternal life, that they know you, the one true God, and the one that you sent, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ.

I left him; I fled him, renounced, crucified.

Let me never be separated from him.

He is only kept securely by the ways taught in the Gospel:

Renunciation, total and sweet.
Complete submission to Jesus Christ and to my director.
Eternally in joy for a day's exercise on the earth.
May I not forget your words. Amen.
(from Experimental Theology post 2/04/2019)]