

SALT CO

May 11, 2025

VIA LUCIS STATION VI

Jesus Appears to the Disciples in Jerusalem

Luke 24: 36-43

WELCOME TO THE SALT CO!

Welcome those who are joining us online.

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

HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY! Where would any of us be without our mothers? Suzanne and I were thinking this morning about a gift our moms gave us. This too is part of our story. To the moms in the room, we are glad you are here!

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*

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' 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. We have copies of VIA LUCIS at the back table.

The last two stations of the Resurrection centered on the encounter with the Risen Jesus by two people on the road from Jerusalem to their village in Emmaus. They had witnessed the devastating Crucifixion of the one "they had hoped" would be the messiah. Station IV invited us to consider how Jesus entered into their grief before they even recognized him; how He asked good questions that helped open their hearts to the heart of the Story in God's word. Later they said, "***Were not our hearts burning within us when He explained the Story of the Bible out on the road?***" That brought us last time **to Station V**, the two at table in their own home with Jesus breaking bread in such a way that their eyes were opened, and they "recognized Him", and then he *became invisible* (not "vanished"! The evidence that He has not ***vanished*** comes in this next Station.

This couple hurries back to Jerusalem that same night, quick pace, seven miles covered in less than two hours. They find the other disciples gathered. Picture these two bursting into the room breathless. But before they can share their news, the others share theirs, "***The Lord is risen indeed! And He has appeared to Peter!***"

Here is the news at the very heart and core of why there is Christianity! Here is what started all this is this, "***The Lord is risen indeed!***" The focus on Peter emphasizes his leadership in the movement- I Cor. 15:5, and John 2.

Only then did Cleopas and his companion get to tell them “***what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.***” (Luke 24:35)

The scene is set for Station VI.

VIA LUCIS STATION VI: Jesus Appears to the Disciples in Jerusalem Luke 24: 36-43

As before, we'll go through a simple guided process of using our “faithful imaginations” to enter this scene using a reading from the Gospel of Luke,

1. We'll start by just listening to the scripture so you can imagine the scene.
2. Then I'll read the scripture a second time and this time try to imagine yourself IN the scene...feel free to jot some notes, or maybe even sketch the scene as you listen.
3. Then, we'll display a rendering of the scene on the screens and invite you to gaze on 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. Take that home with you.
4. After that... we'll take time at your tables for those who would like to to share some of your thoughts and impressions.
5. 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.

Let's step into the Way of Light.

FIRST READING – I'm putting this on screen, but I also invite you to just listen without reading. Try to picture this scene.

“While [the disciples] were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled

and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While in their joy they were disbelieving, and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.”

Luke 24:36-43

For the second reading see yourself in this room.

Notice what is happening in you in that moment when, suddenly, you see Him standing in the middle of this room. What goes through your mind? What are you feeling? Where do you feel it in your body?

SECOND READING

Here is a picture.

<https://bible.art/p/LT2jhrwUTr2Il2CftiZP/luke-24:36-43-while-they-were-still>

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! What answers is Jesus offering you? What is happening to your fears? Your hope?

What is going through your mind as you watch him eat some broiled fish?

TABLE TALK (30 minutes)

1. What do you think were some of the thoughts, feelings, questions in the room before Jesus showed up?
2. What about the moment when Jesus is standing in their midst? Talk about what it felt like to you to hear Him say, “***Peace be with you.***”

3. Can you imagine, see yourself, touching Him? What would you be thinking and feeling?
4. Try to help each other to grasp, “**While in their joy they were disbelieving, and still wondering...**” (v. 41) Have you ever had an experience like this?
5. Toward the end of your time together read vv. 44-48. How does this Station VI help prepare Jesus’ followers for what they will be doing?
6. How does this Station help you?

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This Station confirms that Jesus did not “leave” the two when their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. We remembered what Jesus told them and us,

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

(Matt. 28:20).

No one saw how He entered the room. He did not come in by the door. Luke says, “**Jesus himself stood among them...**” How is this possible? Is that one of your questions? It’s a good one. How shall we try to explain this? N.T. Wright uses “transphysical body”. Huh? Is there any wonder why they would be experiencing disbelieving in their joy?!

Doubts are flags marking places to dig deeper. There is a LOT to uncover! The root of the word “question” is “quest”.

What do you think you would do if Jesus suddenly showed up in the middle of this room? Would you dive under the table, try to become one with the tile? It’s so good Jesus’ first word was “**Peace be with you**”. Right? That’s what I would need to hear when my mind and heart are racing.

They thought they were seeing a ghost. Of course they did. Let’s be clear, people in the first century were as hardheaded as we are. They assumed and believed that when people died they stayed dead. But everything in

this scene explicitly rebuts any suggestion that Jesus was a ghost, or a hallucination.

I have to say, maybe you got this as well, that I almost have to laugh when Jesus says,

“Why are you frightened? Why do doubts rise in your hearts?”

With all due respect, *“Lord, are you kidding me?!”* But from Jesus’ side, what He knows, what He has already shown them, and us, what He told them, and told us, how He sees us, His showing up ought not be frightening at all!

Is Jesus being unreasonable? Or were they, are we, just slow? Like a friend a used to say with a wink, “He’s a bit dim...”, or my brother liked to say, “He’s running a quart low...”, or as it’s put, “not the sharpest tool in the shed...”, the elevator doesn’t go all the way to the top...

That’s pretty much all of us. Ever wonder *what have we been missing?* What is it He has been wanting to show us, to know, to have and hold in our hearts that as yet we are just not getting?

Is it possible that in our pursuit of certainty, having everything nailed down, in “order”, predictable, under our control, that we might miss wonderful, joyful overwhelm? My conversation with Don Y on Sunday, *“I just feel overwhelmed, but underneath it all there is joy!”* Joy because He is always with us. Overwhelm because what He has for us now and in our life everlasting explodes in our tiny brains.

You okay with that? I think as we “age” we need to cultivate “joyful overwhelm”, because that’s what it’s going to be like in His new creation!

For example, Jesus has them all look at His hands and feet. There would have been scars there.

He still has them.

He says to them,

“See that is I myself.”

In the Greek what He says, ‘IDETE EGO EIMI AUTOS, Literally,

“See with your eyes I AM MYSELF.”

Ring a bell? Moses at the burning bush asks the Lords’s name (Exodus 3:14). The Lord answers, “I AM WHO I AM.”

Jesus stands in their midst, his body “burning” with holy presence, saying who He is to His followers, to you and to me, in that moment transforming them as YHWH did with Moses (who also up to that moment did not recognize God with him), from a wanderer in the wilderness into, as we too become, His agent in God’s plan to make all things new! Like Mose we are sent out. Let’s not forget, this happened when Moses was a seasoned adult- 80 years old! We’ll come back to this.

The Via Lucis, the stations of the resurrection all of which take place in the forty days between Jesus’ rising from the grave and His ascension, have as their purpose to launch the work of making all things new. This takes human beings created in God’s image entrusting themselves over to Jesus; from seeing in order to believe to believing in order to, to see Him with the eyes of our hearts.

That is what is happening in that room, and I pray what is happening in this room. The description of their reactions is so honest, real. A jumble of emotions: fright, doubt, joy, disbelief, wonder. Yes. Disorientation.

“Dis-orientation” = not knowing where east is.

There are two key processes we use to adapt to new information and experiences.

Assimilation involves fitting new information into existing knowledge.

Accommodation involves total reorganizing of what we believe and how we think about what is real! This is us. Analogies in history: Copernicus’ discovery, Einstein’s theory.

A sermon I heard long time ago, preacher began with a question about the resurrection of Jesus: *“What if it’s true?”*

While they were rearranging their entire orientation to the world, and their own selves in the world, Jesus said the perfect thing, *“Got anything to eat?”*

Mundane, quotidian, grounding, settling, familiar, “relaxing the room”, calming every “down”, chilling. From startle, minds and hearts racing, to watching Jesus, like they had so many times before, enjoying some Perch. Did they eat too? I hope so...

[Reminds me of the story of the woman who overwhelmed by her grief as people were gathered with her in living room went out to the kitchen to wash the dishes...]

Jesus was getting them ready to be sent out.

“Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’”

Luke 24:44-49

It’s good to remember what we have seen so far. This Bible Project video is a little less than 5 minutes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb24Lk1Oh5M>

Three Take Away’s building three underlined points

1. Cultivate joyful overwhelm. In your reading *God's word*, going outside to ponder the witness of creation- ponder the images coming from the deep space telescope, in following the stations of VIA LUCIS. How else?
2. Because the purpose of VIA LUCIS is to get us ready to go out to serve in Jesus' name. We too are "witnesses of these things". Where? With whom
3. We go in His power. The grace of God is the power of God at work in us to do what we cannot do on our own. Every day. Story of couple Suzanne and I met up at Samarkand years ago, "*Each morning we pray to the Lord that we might be a blessing to someone. Then we step into the day watching for our opportunities.*" Simple. Beautiful. Life changing!

WALK THE TALK

1. Car Show

O God,

You continually surprise us with abundant love:

**You who came to Elijah in the sound of sheer silence
and to Saint Joseph in dreams.**

**You show us wonders beyond imagining
in the heavens that you have made.**

**Make us aware of the nudges of your grace
in the events of each day.**

**May we recognize you
when we receive correction or praise.**

In the gatherings of your people for worship,

by the power of your Holy Spirit
let the prayer of others support our own prayer.
Remember your promise to be with us
when two or more are together to pray.
Embolden our prayer,
so that confident in your support,
we can reach and ask for greater things.
Give us insight
to see the world from a new perspective,
to see our problems through the eyes of others.
Humble our minds and hearts
so that we can receive the counsel of friends
and celebrate the successes of others without any trace of envy.

In the name of Jesus we pray:
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.

Via Lucis: The Way of Light. Glenn Byer p. 28

BLESSING