The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, According to Luke.

We have come to Christianity’s central story. We know it well. Yet each encounter has the potential to reveal something new.

Perhaps you will be touched by Jesus’ lament to the daughters of Jerusalem as he carries his cross to Calvary.

Perhaps you will find yourself in the temple, amazed that after three brutal days there is joy.

Or, maybe, like Mary, you will find yourself pondering the meaning of Jesus’ final words: “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:39

How long will that take, you might ask? What amount of patience will that require? And, what lesson am I to learn?

This week’s Greek phrase focused on the word for “open” or “to be opened.” The concept infuses the entire gospel and is especially prominent in the story of the Passion. It seems Jesus’ disciples and followers are challenged at every turn. Three times he has told them what will happen, but to no avail. Their minds remain closed.

Can the Resurrection and its subsequent events be regarded as a great “opening” of hearts and minds? We are invited to experience the unexpected, the unbelievable, the world-altering.

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.” Luke 24:5

Those words spoken to the women at the empty tomb ushered in a new reality and new possibilities. Near Emmaus, the hearts of two disciples burned as a stranger opened their minds to understand his mysterious presence in the scriptures.

This gift of illumination can be ours. In studying the bible, we not only seek Christ but also the other powerful revelations contained in God’s holy word. In the Eucharist, we find ourselves not only encountering Christ, but also being transformed by the Body and Blood of Christ. To paraphrase St. Paul, we who are many become one body.

As we come to the end of Luke’s gospel, remember this is only part one. Luke has much more to tell us. His story continues in the Acts of the Apostles, which we will study after Easter. Stay tuned!

Grace and peace, and we will see you this Thursday at 6 p.m. on Zoom or in-person as we continue to explore the greatness of the Lord.

Fr. Dion and Patricia