On the Road to Emmaus Luke 24: 13-35

On the Sunday evening two disciples were on their way to Emmaus, a village seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking about everything that had happened and did not recognise the stranger who joined them as they walked along.

"What are you talking about so sadly?" he asked them.

They turned to him, their faces full of their sadness. The disciple named Cleopas answered him. "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who does not know all the things that have been going on these last few days?"

"What things?" Jesus asked.

"What happened to Jesus of Nazareth," they said, "the great prophet who showed by all he did and said that he was sent by God. Our chief priests and leaders handed him over to the Romans and he was crucified. We had hoped that he was the Promised One who would set Israel free. This morning, some women went to the tomb where he had been buried and came back saying they had seen a vision of angels and that Jesus was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found it empty as the women had said, but they didn't see anything of Jesus."

Jesus said to them, "How slow you are to believe! Don't you remember the promises of the prophets about the Christ who would suffer and rise to new life?" Then Jesus started with Moses and went through all the Scriptures explaining the message about himself.

By now they were near to Emmaus, they begged him to stay with them. So he did and they sat down at table together. He took the bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, as if their eyes had just opened, they recognised him; but even as they did, he vanished.

"How could we not have know!" they exclaimed. "Weren't our hearts burning as he talked to us and explained the Scriptures to us?"

At once they set out and returned to Jerusalem. When they arrived, the Eleven and the other disciples said, "Yes, it's true! He has appeared to Simon!" and then they told their story and how they had recognised him when he blessed and broke the bread.