

Sermon – 5/12/19 - Our Savior’s Lutheran Church  
Text- Luke 24:13-35

### “On the Road Again”

Grace and Peace to you and from our Lord Jesus Christ. We continue our post Easter appearances with our text from the Gospel of Luke. It’s most commonly referred to as the “road to Emmaus”. It’s all about knowing Jesus, seeing Jesus, and inviting Jesus into our lives.

\*\*\*Cute story about a Pastor serving a very small rural congregation in Wyoming. Almost all congregations in Wyoming are small and rural. The congregation was so small that they couldn’t pay the Pastor a livable wage so he took a part time job as a Dominos Pizza driver. You do what you have to do. He has a delivery at a construction site, and as he walks up with the pizza, he hears the foulest language emanating from the mouth of one of the workers. Since he is a Pastor, with pizza in hand, he walks up to the guy and says, “do you know Jesus?” The guy looks at him, turns around and yells. “Does anyone know Jesus?” Then he pauses and yells, “his pizza’s here.”

Well, we might know Jesus better than that guy, but probably all of us can get better acquainted.

The disciples are walking on a road. In short, they continue to grieve, they are saddened by the events of the past few days. A dialogue ensues with a stranger. “What’s new?” The disciples probably said “what’s new?! Have you been out of the country these last few days?” Of course we know it was Jesus, but the disciples only gained this knowledge when he ate with them and they saw his hands.

Well, like the disciples on that road, we are on a road somewhere. And like the disciples, our hopes can be dashed when the reality of life sets in. It’s called Post Easter reality. You know what I mean.

- \*But the doctor’s prognosis looked so promising.
- \*I really believed that we could live with his alcoholism.
- \*I thought my mother was fully recovered.
- \* We believed our teenage son had turned the corner.
- \* I thought my life was in order.

Yes you know what I mean. It's kind of funny but none of the appearances of Jesus are greeted with fanfare. No regal settings. They are set in a dusty room, a normal fish fry and an ordinary road.

This is the good news for you. For if somehow you missed the good news of Easter, if you are still walking on an empty road to a place where you do not know the ending, this message is for you. You see, wherever your elusive Emmaus may be, in your home, your place of work, your school, where you play, you have the assurance that Christ is still walking with you, even if you do not recognize him.

The key line in the text this morning is what the disciples said to the stranger. "Stay with us Lord, for it is evening." That was their moment of transformation. They invited - Jesus came.

For you and me, it is and will always be, a key phrase. Jesus stands at the door waiting to come into our lives. He stand poised at the gate. He stands waiting at the street corner. All he has to do is hear the words, "stay with us Lord" and he enters our lives.

I remember reading a story once about a young boy who one day decided to go out and look for God. He packed a lunch and got as far as the park before he got hungry. He sat on a bench next to an old woman. They sat together for an hour. He offered her a Twinkie. She offered him a huge smile. When the boy got home he announced to his mother "I met God today, and she has the most wonderful smile." When the elderly lady got home she said to her son, "I met God today and he is much younger than I imagined."

We never hear about Cleopas again after this passage. The village of Emmaus has all but disappeared. But something very important happened on that road that day. And for sure those disciples came to know God more intimately when they invited him into their lives. Stay with us Lord.

The same is true for us. Yes, we are on the road again. A road that leads somewhere! The point is that Jesus is waiting for the invitation from us – to come into our lives.

Stay with us Lord, I need you.

Stay with us Lord, our family needs you.  
He will – he's just waiting for the invite.  
Amen. Let it be so.