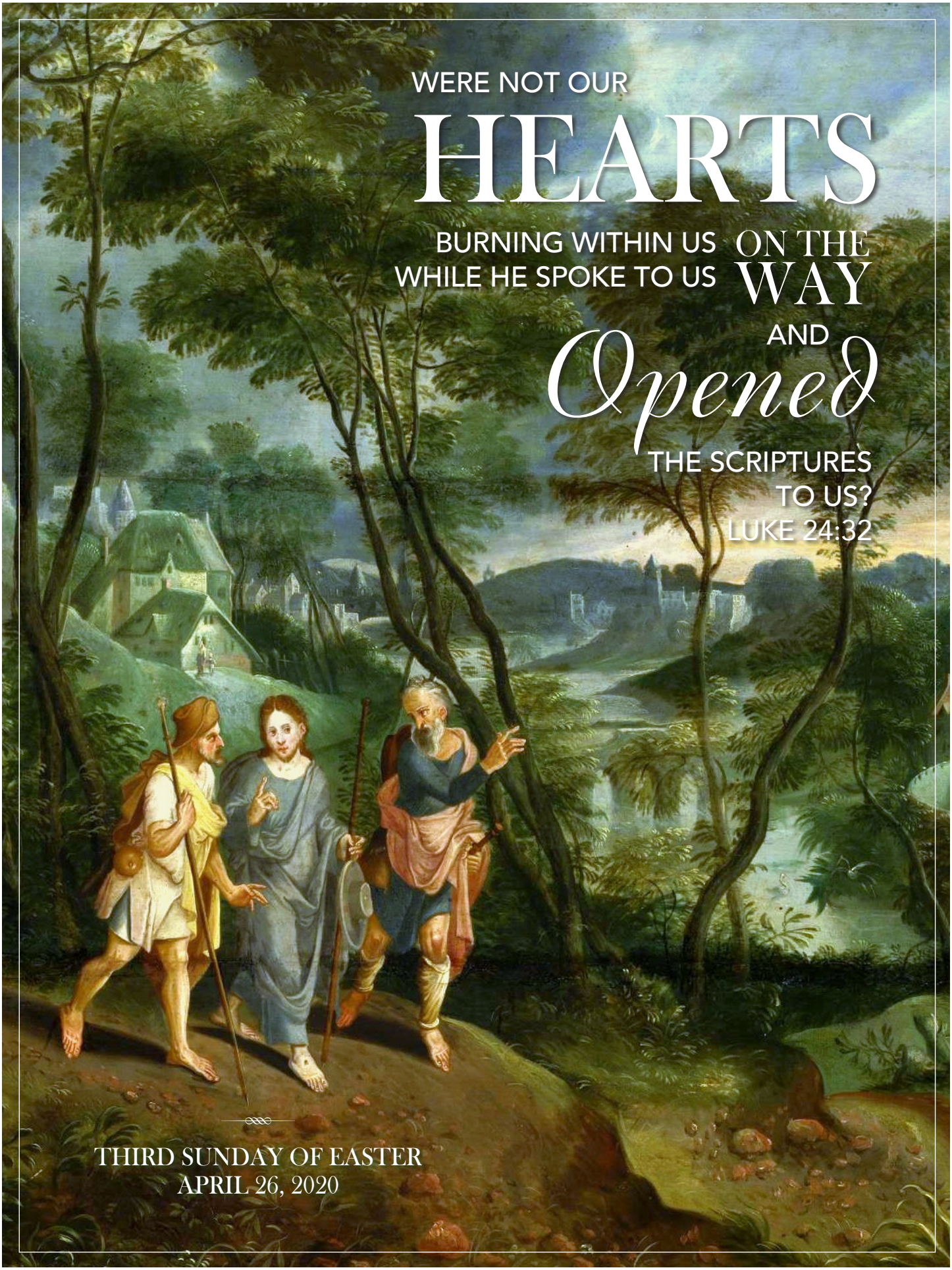


Christ and His Disciples on the Road to Emmaus, Master of the Prodigal Son (1530-1560)

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, April 26
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14,22-33
Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
1 Pet 1:17-21
Lk 24:13-35

Monday, April 27
Easter Weekday
Acts 6:8-15
Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30
Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday, April 28
Easter Weekday
Acts 7:51-8:1a
Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab
Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday, April 29
Memorial of St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church
Acts 8:1b-8
Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a
Jn 6:35-40

Thursday, April 30
Easter Weekday
Acts 8:26-40
Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20
Jn 6:44-51

First Friday, May 1
Easter Weekday
Acts 9:1-20
Ps 117:1bc, 2
Jn 6:52-59

First Saturday, May 2
Memorial of St. Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Acts 9:31-42
Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Jn 6:60-69

Pope Francis: The Secret of the Road to Emmaus

Gospel Reflection Based on Luke 24:13-35

Two men are walking; disappointed, sad, convinced that they are leaving behind them the bitterness of an event which ended badly. Before that Easter, they had been full of enthusiasm, convinced that those days would be decisive: their expectations met as well as the hopes of all the people. Jesus, to whom they had entrusted their lives, had seemed to arrive at the final battle. He would now manifest his power, after a long period of preparation and concealment. This is what they were expecting. And it was not to be.

Jesus' encounter with those two disciples appears to be completely fortuitous. It seems to be one of those chance meetings that happen in life. The two disciples are walking, deep in thought, and a stranger comes up alongside them. It is Jesus, but their eyes are not able to recognize him.

Jesus' encounter with the two disciples of Emmaus is a fleeting one. But the entire destiny of the Church is contained within it. It tells us that the Christian community is not enclosed within a fortified citadel, but rather journeys along its most essential environment, which is the road. And there, it encounters people with their hopes and disappointments, burdensome at times. The Church listens to everyone's stories as they emerge from the treasure chest of personal conscience, in order to then offer the Word of Life, the witness of love, a love that is faithful until the end. And thus, the hearts of people reignite with hope.

We have all had difficult moments in life, dark moments in which we walked in sadness, pensive, without horizons, with only a wall before us. And Jesus is always beside us to give us hope, to warm our hearts and to say: "Go ahead, I am with you. Go ahead". The secret of the road that leads to Emmaus is simply this: despite appearances to the contrary, we continue to be loved and God will never stop loving us. God will walk with us always, always, even in the most painful moments, even in the worst moments, even in moments of defeat. That is where the Lord is. And this is our hope. Let us go forward with this hope! Because he is beside us and walks with us. Always!

Abridged. *General Audience of Pope Francis*, Wednesday, 24 May 2017 (Accessed 20 April 2020). http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2017/documents/papa-francesco_20170524_udienza-generale.html

Lord, You Will Show Us the Path of Life

Responsorial Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (NABRE)

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge; I say to the LORD, "My Lord are you."
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot.

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

I bless the LORD who counsels me; even in the night my heart exhorts me.
I set the LORD ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

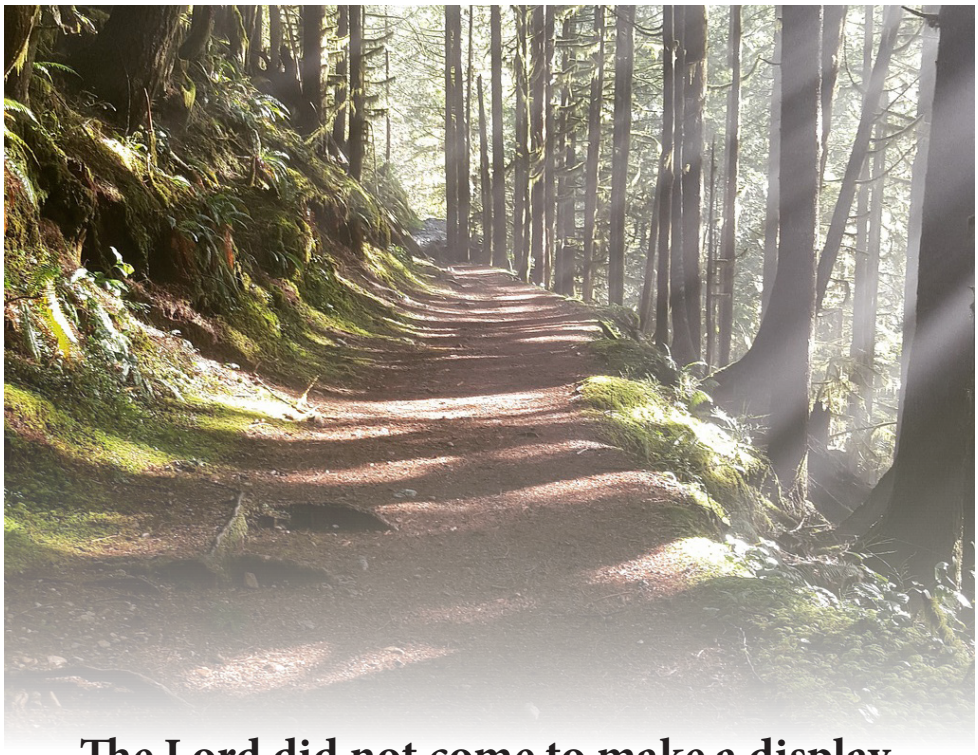
R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.

You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever.

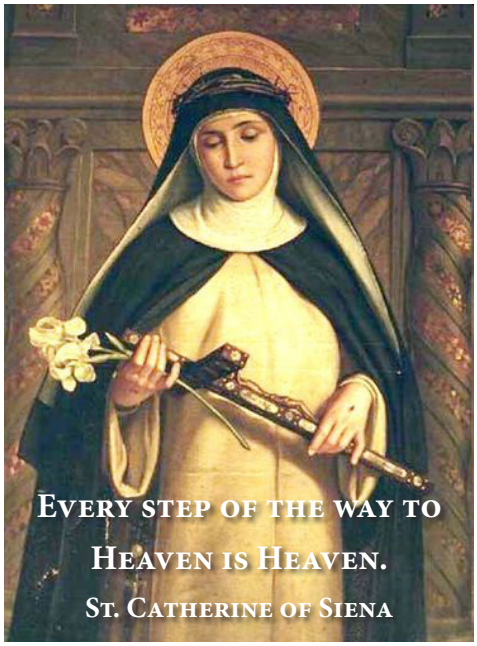
R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.



The Lord did not come to make a display.

He came to heal and to teach suffering men.
For one who wanted to make a display the thing would have been just to appear and dazzle the beholders. But for Him Who came to heal and to teach the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who needed Him, and to be manifested according as they could bear it, not vitiating the value of the Divine appearing by exceeding their capacity to receive it.

St. Athanasius of Alexandria
On the Incarnation



St. Catherine of Siena

Feast Day: April 29

Catherine was born on March 25, 1347, in Siena, Italy. She was the youngest child in a large Italian family and knew that she was devoted to God from an early age. When she was six years old, she had a fantastic vision of Jesus and the Lord blessed her. Catherine n ever forgot this image in her mind. Her parents wanted her to marry, but she refused on account of her desire for a religious life. Catherine became a Dominican tertiary, a mystic, and also manifested the stigmata on occasion. In a later vision she was married to Christ and the infant Jesus offered her a wedding ring as a symbol of this union. She died in 1380 of a mysterious illness.

Prayer for Temptation

St. Catherine of Siena, I call on you for help this day. I pray to the Lord to keep me from going astray. Pray with me to the Lord our God thatI am responsible and true. I ask His help, along with your prayers, to remain steadfast, whatever the temptation may be. St. Catherine of Siena, I ask you to give your glory to the Father in Heaven and pray for me. Amen.

Philip Lief Group, Inc. (2004). *Saintly Advice: A Prayer for Every Problem.* Capodanno, J. (Ed.). Kansas City, MO: Barnes and Noble

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