

# Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time

Sunday Forum – April 3, 2016

## Two Stories of Resurrection: Food, Forgiveness, and the Mystery of New Life



Diego Velazquez (1599-1660) – Kitchen Maid with Supper at Emmaus (c. 1618)

### Two Stories of Resurrection

**The Emmaus Road (Luke 24: 13-35)**

**The Fish Fry on the Beach (John 21:1-19)**

### Opening Prayer – Seven Stanzas at Easter – John Updike (1932-2009)

Make no mistake: if he rose at all  
It was as His body;  
If the cell's dissolution did not reverse, the molecule reknit,  
The amino acids rekindle,  
The Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,  
Each soft spring recurrent;  
It was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled eyes of the  
Eleven apostles;  
It was as His flesh; ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes  
The same valved heart  
That—pierced—died, withered, paused, and then regathered  
Out of enduring Might  
New strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,  
Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence,  
Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded  
Credulity of earlier ages:  
Let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache,  
Not a stone in a story,  
But the vast rock of materiality that in the slow grinding of  
Time will eclipse for each of us  
The wide light of day.

And if we have an angel at the tomb,  
Make it a real angel,  
Weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair, opaque in  
The dawn light, robed in real linen  
Spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,  
For our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,  
Lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are embarrassed  
By the miracle,  
And crushed by remonstrance.

## **The Mystery of New Life**

Dawn and Dusk – Seeing New Life in Half-Light

Jesus Transformed – The Mysterious Stranger in Our Midst

Mary Magdalene and the “Gardener” at Dawn – John 20:14-15

The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus at Dusk – Luke 24:16

The Stranger on the Beach at Dawn – John 21:4

## **The Emmaus Road – Luke 24: 13-35**

The One Who Listens

Receiving us as we are

Trauma and the inability to hope

The One Who “Re-Frames” Suffering

Jesus' suffering and finding meaning

Our suffering – meaning and hope

The One Who Shares Himself in a Meal

Jesus comes to dinner

Guest and host

Vulnerability at table

Trusting the one who feeds

Food and goodness – and life



Food/Self and transformation  
Feeding on another and hope  
Finding hope in communion – community  
The One Who Disappears  
Removing possibility of idolatry  
Making space for transformation and creativity  
Becoming Christians – “little christs” – newly anointed ones  
Bearers of the One we have taken into ourselves

## **The Fish Fry on the Beach (John 21:1-19)**

Mission Abandoned  
From “fishers of men” back to fishermen  
Jesus as the One who comes to us when we abandon his mission  
The One Who Comes to Us in the Midst of Our Daily Rounds  
The “stranger” in our midst  
Jesus as the Host  
Jesus feeds us before we feed others  
Jesus welcomes our additions to the feast – however “small fry” our additions may be  
Peter and Jesus  
Peter’s last “conversation” with Jesus – Peter’s tripartite denial – John 18:17, 25, 27  
Forgiveness through love – *agape*  
Loving as best one can – *philia*  
Jesus accepting the best we have to offer, however inadequate  
Jesus joining us in our failures  
Forgiveness as acceptance  
Forgiveness as invitation to try again  
Follow me  
Sharing food, forgiveness, and hope-as-trying-again

## **The Emmaus Road – Luke 24:13-35**

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” <sup>19</sup>He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us,



because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.<sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.<sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”<sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.<sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”<sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

### **The Fish Fry on the Beach (John 21:1-19)**

<sup>1</sup>After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup>Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. <sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

<sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love [*agape*] me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love [*philia*] you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love [*agape*] me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love [*philia*] you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love [*philia*] me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love [*philia*] me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love [*philia*] you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” <sup>19</sup>(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

### **Peter’s Denials of Jesus – John 18**

<sup>15</sup>Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, <sup>16</sup>but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup>The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.”

<sup>25</sup>Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” <sup>26</sup>One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” <sup>27</sup>Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.