

WHAT WE FOUND

The study's word found its final landing. From the cross, to a thief with a criminal record and no time left, the fifth today: truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise, the blessed-outside thread crowned, and the image the Church has long loved for her teaching on baptism of desire (CCC 1257-1260): God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments. We watched the Lord die praying the psalm verse Jewish tradition took to bed at night, into thy hands I commit my spirit, and watched the look that met Peter's third denial carry the intercession of 22:32 across a courtyard.

On the Emmaus road we found the Mass written into the resurrection: the Scriptures opened until hearts burned, then the four verbs at table, and their eyes were opened, the very words of Genesis 3:7, an echo many have heard as Eden's meal answered, and he vanished as the Church learned his new address: the breaking of the bread (CCC 1347). And the Gospel closed where it opened: the true Priest, as the Church has long seen him here, hands raised in the blessing mute Zechariah could not give (1:21-22), ascending mid-benediction, and the Church continually in the temple blessing God (24:50-53; compare 1:9). The bookends met. What was visible in our Redeemer has passed into the sacraments, and you have his address.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. John Chrysostom (*On the Cross and the Thief*)

A robber broke into Paradise before apostle or martyr, stealing heaven with a single sentence of faith. No merit preceded him and no time remained to him; mercy asked only that he ask. Let no sinner despair.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Augustine of Hippo (*Sermon 235, on Emmaus*)

They knew the scriptures and did not know their companion, until he broke the bread. If you would recognize the Lord now, you know where to seek him: they walked with him unseeing; we, unseeing, hold him.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Leo the Great (*Sermon 74, on the Ascension*)

What was visible in our Redeemer has passed over into the sacraments. He withdrew his bodily presence not to be absent but to be present in a new mode, so that faith, nobler than sight, might find him where he promised to remain.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

- This Sunday, live Emmaus consciously: heart set on fire at the Word, eyes opened at the breaking of the bread. Then go tell someone.
- Pray Psalm 31:5 at bedtime this week: Into thy hands I commit my spirit, the prayer a dying God chose.
- Keep reading: Luke wrote a sequel. Open the Acts of the Apostles this month and watch everything this Gospel planted grow into the Church you stand in.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Luke 24:32 *Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?* (RSV2CE)

The road from here: *Fourteen weeks, one Gospel, five todays. Thank you for walking the road. He is known in the breaking of the bread; you know where to find him. Stay in the city; power from on high is the next chapter, and it is called Acts.*

Catechism this week: CCC 1347, 1257–1260, 2605, 641–643, 659–660.