



## INTRODUCTION

There is a true story in *Ripley's Believe It or Not* about a judge in Yugoslavia who had an unfortunate accident. He was “electrocuted” when he reached up to turn on the light while standing in the bathtub. His wife found his body sprawled on the bathroom floor. She called for help. Friends and neighbors, police--everyone showed up. He was pronounced dead and taken to the funeral home. The local radio picked up the story and broadcast it all over the air. In the middle of the night, the judge regained consciousness. When he realized where he was, he rushed over to alert the night watchman, who promptly ran off, terrified. The first thought of the judge was to phone his wife and reassure her, using the funeral home phone. But he got no further than, "Hello darling, it's me," when she screamed and fainted...

Then he knocked the door other friends, but was not welcomed, afraid that he was a ghost or a spirit. Finally, he went to a friend who did not know about the news of his death. He helped him convince his family and others that he was real and alive as he had been with them.

<http://stiohngrandbay.org/>

What happened to the man in the story? Do you think this story is true?

If you were the man, how would you feel, finding yourself in a funeral home after gaining consciousness?

If you were one of his neighbors, would you do if he knocks at your door?

We have similar story today. On this Third Sunday of Easter, we will see Jesus telling his disciples that he is real and alive. Let us find out how Jesus leads his disciples to believe that he who had been with them before was dead but came back to life!



### OPENING PRAYER

Any prayer or Song to the Spirit



### PHASE ONE REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

## 1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story John 3: 14-21

*(Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle)*

### A moment of prayerful silence

*We will not be able to understand the Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word.*

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Ipadayag, Ginoo an imong pulong ha amon; padilaaba hin gugma an among kasingkasing kon ikaw magyayakan. Alleluia!  
 (Alleluia! Open the Scriptures to us, make our hearts burn while you speak to us. Alleluia, Alleluia!)

## 1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story Luke 24: 35-48



36 While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”<sup>y</sup> 37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost

8 He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself.

Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them,

“Have you anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses b of these things. 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

When Jesus entered the locked door, the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost.  
 -How do you think Jesus look like as he appeared to his disciples?  
 -If you were one of them, how would you feel? What would you say to Jesus?

## 1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer (pause for some moments of silence)

## 1.3 Text in Context

This part of the Gospel Story of Luke is a continuation of Jesus’ appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Saddened by the Jesus’ death, they must have left Jerusalem to get away from the tension of the tragic news.

On their way, Jesus joined and talked with them. Not recognizing him, they shared with him their disappointments and hopes. Jesus who disguised himself as stranger, patiently led them to a deeper understanding on why Jesus (speaking about himself) had to die. Reaching the place, they invited him to stay with them. But lo and behold, they

finally recognized Jesus at meal when he broke the bread. Full of joy, they ran back to Jerusalem to share their personal encounter with Jesus.

**1.What happened as soon as they reached the place?**

(While the two disciples whom Jesus met on the road to Emmaus were talking about Jesus whom they encountered, Jesus appeared to the group of apostles? gathered.)

**2.How did the disciples feel upon seeing Jesus?**

(They were overwhelmed with fear because they thought Jesus who had come to their midst was a ghost.)

**3.What did Jesus do to make them believe that he was not a ghost? (He allowed them to touch him and asked them to give him something to eat.)**

**4.Why do you think it was difficult for the disciple to believe that what they see is Jesus? (They have not fully understood what he told them: *Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, must be fulfilled.*)**

**5.What did he do so that they come to know all that happened to him?**

(Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.)

**PHASE II REFLECT the Story  
of the Church  
(Teachings of the Church)**



The four Gospels give us the accounts on the resurrection of Jesus, though they are written in different way. Each writer has his own particular style of describing this event. The resurrection stories differ in some details, but all of them talk about the disciples' unpreparedness of the Jesus' death and their unbelief on his resurrection.

In today's Gospel, Luke stresses that Jesus' resurrection is real. There should be no doubt about it!  
How did Jesus lead the disciples to this understanding?

**Jesus allowed them to touch him and have a close encounter with his glorious body.**

Jesus knew very well the confusion of the disciples in seeing him. His resurrection is something new and hard to understand for them. But he gently guided them to discover that he was alive in the same person they knew. He said to them: *Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself... Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.*"

In order to convince his person was real, appearing to them, he asked: *Have you got anything here to eat?*"  
The disciples would always remember that moment of familiar sharing of meal together with Jesus.

Jesus could have done extraordinary power to prove his rising from the dead, like heroes in movies.  
But Risen Jesus patiently wants the disciples to reflect for themselves what he showed and what he said to awaken their faith in him.

The several appearances of Jesus and his gentle ways, stirred and strengthen disciples' faith in his Resurrection. *They knew it was the same Lord now living a new, glorified life.*

*How alive is my faith in the Risen One who victoriously conquered sin and death?*

*How do I face the many deaths of people caused by the surge of pandemic at this uncertain time?*

*What are some of my questions that seem to challenge my faith in the Risen Christ?*

**So, we may ask now, what is the difference of Jesus' body after his resurrection?**

His body belonged no longer only to this earth, but rather to the heavenly kingdom of his Father. The Risen Christ who bore the wounds of the Crucified, was no longer bound by space and time, he could enter through locked doors and appear to his disciples in various places in a form which they did not recognize him immediately.

Christ resurrection, therefore, not a return to normal earthly life, but rather his entrance into a new way of being: for we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. (YOUCAT 107)

Jesus, who has risen triumphantly in body and soul, enlightens our Christian understanding of who we are. We created in God's image. We are not complete unless there is union of body and soul. We are reminded to have great respect and care of our body and others (Pope Francis). The same body will join us in our own resurrection on the last day. *Those who have been faithful to Christ will rise glorious, their bodies transformed on the model of the risen body of Christ...* So our bodies will join our souls in eternal joy and peace in Heaven.

*In our world today, what are the times when the body has become the occasion of sin?*

*How do I take care of my own body and soul?*

*When was the last time I gave more attention to the needs of my body?*

*How do I imagine myself with glorified body like Christ on resurrection of my own body?*

**PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal  
faith /community faith story**

Now we understand why Jesus patiently leads the disciples in believing that he has truly risen. Our Church has grown into a community of believers from faith of the first disciples in the Risen Christ.

If Jesus had not risen, our life has no meaning at all. Life is beautiful for those who believe.

As we celebrate the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines, how do we share in concrete ways that the Risen Lord is alive in our midst. Is there something to hope for at this time of pandemic?



**CLOSING PRAYER**

My lord and my God,

You said that they are blessed  
who have not seen and yet believe.

yet while you are close to me,

I sometimes doubt your presence

And refuse to believe

Unless I touch and see.

Strengthen my faith that you are with me

As the way the truth and the life. Amen <https://www.pinterest.ph/>

**BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS**

**CCC 645** By means of touch and the sharing of a meal, the risen Jesus establishes direct contact with his disciples. He invites them in this way to recognize that he is not a ghost and above all to verify that the risen body in which he appears to them is the same body that had been tortured and crucified, for it still bears the traces of his Passion.<sup>509</sup> Yet at the same time this authentic, real body possesses the new properties of a glorious body: not limited by space and time but able to be present how and when he will; for Christ's humanity can no longer be confined to earth, and belongs henceforth only to the Father's divine realm.<sup>510</sup> For this reason too the risen Jesus enjoys the sovereign freedom of appearing as he wishes: in the guise of a gardener or in other forms familiar to his disciples, precisely to awaken their faith.

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