**The Emmaus Experience (Luke 24:28-35)**

 Jesus’ Resurrection means that forever God is with us. Christ is Risen from the Dead! Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ! Other churches say amongst each other, “Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed!” Today we rejoice together the greatest victory in the salvation of God, which Jesus accomplished according to the Father’s will.

 Everybody loves the joy that we feel in social gatherings on Easter. Perhaps some of us see beyond the social aspect and see an emotional value in the Resurrection of Jesus. Maybe there arises within some an emancipation, or a sense of freedom. The most important aspect, however, of Jesus’ Resurrection is its result. Today we’re going to speak about just that result. We’re going to speak about what Jesus’ Resurrection has to say to us today. Jesus’ Resurrection means that forever God is with us. Let’s talk about this important truth, then.

 Jesus’ Resurrection shows us that we follow a Living God, and not a dead savior. We already understand from the reading what the disciples were going through. They were confused, depressed and amazed. It was clear that they had not believed in the Lord’s Resurrection yet. The Lord came and joined them during their trip. God gradually clarified the revelation to them, first coaxing forth their weakness of faith. Then, when they expressed their imperfect convictions, the Lord pointed out the purpose and correct interpretation of the death of the Messiah and the subsequent resurrection. They were moved by this and perhaps their hunger for more was triggered by the Lord’s teaching. As dusk approached, they invited him to their home and sat together at the table for a meal. It is there that the Lord opened up their eyes (allowed them to perceive) completely as he blessed the bread, broke it and gave it to them. It was around a table, in a moment of intimate fellowship, perhaps even in receiving the bread as they would communion that they felt His presence, comprehended His sayings, and saw the Risen Lord. It was then that their faith was established like a rock. It was then that they understood that they were not abandoned by Him, and that their Teacher, Lord and Savior lived and was there with them to help them to recognize Him and understand what He did. Thus, they returned and strengthened their brothers in the faith. If we continued reading, we would see that Jesus was present there as well, because as soon as the two disciples had finished their testimony about the Risen Lord, Jesus was already going to appear among them and speak to them.

 Remember: Jesus is the Living Savior – and He truly continues to help His followers, even when we cannot see Him with our natural eyes.

 There was once a famous preacher who wrote the following letter to his friends on the day that he died:

*This is to announce: I moved out of the old mud house (II Cor. 5:1); arrived in Glory-land instantly, in charge of the angelic escort (Luke 16:22); absent from the body, at home with the Lord (II Cor. 5:6).*

*I find, as foretold (Psa. 16:11), "in thy presence fullness of joy ... pleasures for evermore!" Will look for You on the way up at the redemption of the body (Rom. 8:23). Till then look up.*

Today, with many proofs, Jesus presents Himself to us as the Risen Savior. Yes, He went through a lot of suffering – but He did not remain on the Cross, nor did He stay buried in the tomb. It means that we follow and belong to a Living, Active, Helping, Powerful Savior! Therefore, even if our eyes are sometimes closed to seeing Him physically, but our hearts always burn and are moved through His Spirit’s fiery Presence, which makes us aware of Jesus’ Presence.

May this truth free you today from every fear and doubt. Do not doubt your salvation; do not fear death, neither fear persecution of your faith in Christ. Your Lord and Savior lives! He is not dead today, but He walks with you in Spirit and invites you to rejoice in His victory. To rejoice because His Resurrection established our relationship with the True God (once and for all). Today you and I have relationship with Him because God is With Us.

So, even in these tough days when we wait for the retreat of the pandemic and the restart of our “free” life, let us Give glory to the Lord for His Resurrection. Let us praise Him because He lives! Our Savior is with us! Our God will never leave us alone, because neither death, nor sin can ever become an obstacle between us and Jesus ever again. Jesus’ Resurrection shows us that we follow a Living God, and not a dead savior. Jesus’ Resurrection means that forever God is with us.

Come and let us rejoice in the Lord’s Resurrection; because if the Lord lives, then He is with us and we also will live with Him, both now and after this life.

The Lord Bless you, Christ is Risen from the dead! Amen.