

**The followers of Jesus were in disarray**

**They had no idea what was going on**

**They had heard reports that he was alive**

**But how could that be? There was absolutely no reference point  
for these events**

**Nothing like the resurrection had happened in the entire history  
of the world**

**Nothing like it has happened since, nor ever will again**

**Although we have a reference point with Sacred Scripture**

**If a similar event took place today**

**Would we react much differently?**

**Or would fear and confusion drive us as well?**

**Even Jesus' own words don't have the impact we might think:**

***Peace be with you* doesn't bring a reaction we expect**

**They were startled and terrified**

**Thinking they were seeing a ghost**

**Jesus had taught them while he was alive**

**But they failed to understand**

**His words to them had been only that, words alone**

**How often does this happen to us?**

**Someone tells us something**

**We read about something, but fail to grasp the meaning**

**We might fake it**

**We don't want to look bad**

**The disciples were no different**

**When they failed to comprehend what Jesus was teaching**

**They just went along**

**When he told them he must suffer and die**

**They thought it was no big deal**

**When he told them he would rise again on the third day**

**They would say OK**

**And go on as if this were an everyday event**

**But when it happened**

**They were terrified**

**When they witnessed Jesus' death**

**They went into hiding**

**The reports that he was alive did not impact them**

**In our Gospel today**

**The 2 disciples that had gone to Emmaus were back in the upper room**

**Telling what had happened to them**

**How they came to recognize him in the breaking of the bread**

**And then he is standing in their presence**

**Though the doors were locked**

**He is there; *Peace be with you***

**And they are terrified**

**They still do not understand**

**So Jesus shows he is not a ghost**

**He shows them where the nails pierced his hands and feet**

**Where the spear went through his side**

**Wounds that do not heal in his glorified body**

**But remain as proof of his love**

**In fact, I have read of a saint who had visions of Christ**

**And sometimes Satan would try to imitate Christ**

**But there was one thing he could never duplicate**

**And that is Christ's wounds**

**These are marks of love for us**

**But even after seeing his wounds**

**They still don't understand**

**So he asks for some food**

**Ghosts do not have flesh and bones**

**Ghosts do not eat food**

***Peace be with you***

**Eventually they do grasp what all this means**

**Do we understand?**

**The mystery of the resurrection is as real today as it was 2000  
years ago**

**Do we really know what is happening at the Mass?**

**When the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood**

**The Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ**

**Are these just words**

**Like when Christ taught his disciples?**

**Do we just nod our heads in agreement when we hear these words?**

**Or do we realize that what we experience at the Mass**

**In a certain way, going outside of time**

**Entering into God's presence in a real way**

**Where we are present at the Last Supper**

**We are present at the Passion and death of Christ**

**Where we are present at the resurrection**

**The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist for us is just as bizarre**

**Just as confusing and mysterious**

**Just as impossible and otherworldly**

**As when he comes through lock doors**

**Stands in the midst of the disciples**

***And says Peace be with you***

**The miracle the disciples experience in our reading today**

**In a very real way should be our experience at every Mass**

**And when we are convicted of our lack of understanding**

**When we are convicted of our sin we ask**

**What can we do?**

**Our response is found in our first reading**

**The day after Pentecost**

**When the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles**

**They are in the Temple area**

**Witnessing to the resurrection**

**And preaching repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ**

**Peter gives an outline of Salvation History**

**From Abraham onward**

**It was all part of God's plan**

**To glorify Christ**

**But there was another point to be made**

**Repentance, conversion and forgiveness**

**The crowd had been at the passion of Christ**

**They had asked for the release of a murderer**

**They put the author of life to death**

**Could there be any greater offense against God than this?**

**But God is not finished**

**He raised Jesus from the dead**

**Now repentance, conversion and forgiveness can be preached**

**That our sins might be wiped away**

**This message was for those that were at the crucifixion**

**This message is for us here today**

**When we realize that our sins today are the scourging of the passion**

**Our sins are the nails of the crucifixion**

**When we are convicted of this**

**We listen to what St John tells us in our second reading**

**Do not sin**

**But if you do, we have an advocate before God**

**Those who say I know him**

**But do not keep his commandments are liars**

**We are called to repentance, conversion and forgiveness**

**For others and for ourselves**

**We need all three**

**Repentance alone is no good**

**Judas repented that he had betrayed Christ**

**But it was a dead end road he travelled**

**Conversion alone is no good**

**Convert to what? Follow who?**

**Forgiveness alone is no good**

**It leads to presumption**

**That I do not need to change, because God will forgive me**

**In another accounting of this event in Acts the people ask:**

**What can we do?**

**Peter basically tells them to do what he did after denying Christ**

**Repent**

**Be converted**

**And be forgiven**

**We believe in the work Jesus did**

**And now we do the work we are called to do**

**We know him**

**And we keep his commandments**

**Even when we are frightened**

**When we are confused**

**When we may not understand completely**

**Listen to his words to his disciples**

**Let them sink deep**

**Let them lead us when the path is mysterious or frightening**

***Peace be with you***