

Be known to us Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

This is one of the fraction anthems at the Eucharist. It's usually sung.

We just read the well-known road to Emmaus story for the Gospel reading. Clopas and his or her companion (the name was used both for males and females) were traveling along and they met a person on the road.

He traveled with them, and as they walked, they told him about what had happened with this Jesus of Nazareth.

I suspect these two were followers of Jesus, though probably not in the inner circle, since this is the first we hear of them. It is possible that they were part of the crowds that would gather around Jesus, or perhaps even people who were in the kitchen helping to prepare that final meal before he died. In any event—they didn't recognize Jesus.

They didn't recognize him—that is, until he said and did something that jogged their memories. He repeated words they had heard before—perhaps from behind the closed kitchen door, and they watched him break bread again.

"This represents my body and blood—and how I am willingly giving up both because of my love for you. That's what love is,"—he's telling us—"love will willingly sacrifice even its own life—for another." And then what did he say? "Every time you eat bread and drink wine," (which was then and is now a very common part of mealtimes) "every time you do it—remember this sacrifice. This is what love is, and what love does."

We do remember the love Jesus had for his friends—and we remember.

And it shouldn't be only at our Eucharist to do this.

Eucharist is lovely. Eucharist at church is "set apart" (that's what the *Holy* in *Holy Eucharist* means.) It helps us weekly to remember.

I sometimes wonder, though, what Jesus would make of the ritual, our special chalices and patens, special linen with crosses embroidered on

them. Weekly Eucharist involves people who are trained to consecrate and distribute the bread and the wine. Special people who ring bells, and set the table.

We love it. All the years of ritual --- adding to the original meal.

But what would Jesus think about it all?

I hear Jesus say—"Actually, folks, I was more thinking that EVERY TIME you break bread and drink your wine at meals—you remember me."

Every single time. MMMMMM.

What do you think?

But back to Clopas and her friend. They recognized Jesus by his words and actions.

I remember when I was in the hospital I had someone come and stay with me. She brought me my glasses, and medicine. She fed my cat. I remember clearly that I was sure I saw the face of Jesus in her.

So here's my thought—what would happen if we were to look for something we associate with Jesus, that reminds us of him, in those we love ---and in those we barely know?

What if instead of thinking we always need to *bring Jesus to people*—we understood that the Holy Spirit was already working on everyone we meet. And what if we tried to see what the Holy Spirit was doing in them? It might just be by a word or a gesture that reminds us of Jesus—like we see a slight resemblance to their parent in them. What if we affirmed that glimpse of God we see in them?

What if we even tried to really connect with that part of God in them?

What would that do to how we viewed others?

And-- let's hope that *we resemble Jesus, too*. And that it's in some small way visible to people we meet.

Now-- some people just overflow with God's love, don't they? I can think of several people – that you probably already know—that do.

But there are other times when—well YOU know. It's harder to see God at work in them. Doesn't mean that God isn't working on them—and that part of God is there somewhere....

What if we still tried, even with *that* person? What if we tried to look for the *Presence of God*, and encourage that spark? If Jesus could see it in the criminals who were put to death with him—can't we at least try to see the spark of the Spirit in those we struggle with? What if the angriest person we know could be encouraged to—I don't know--- articulate the fears we all have? Would that person begin to be less angry if someone actually *heard* him or her?

What if we really committed ourselves to looking for Jesus in everyone we met?

Lots of people have more of Jesus in them than I do, and acknowledging that in other might make me reevaluate my tendency to think that the spark of God is only in me, and my friends....

Be known to us Lord Jesus. In each other. In the things others say and do.

And whenever we break bread—whether it's in our lovely church or at every meal—let's take a moment to reflect on what we are all about.

Love. It's all about who Love is and what Love does. And that Love is still forming us and everyone around us.

Let's decide to look for it, and to be Christ's love in the world. Amen.