

### INTRODUCTION:

In today's Gospel, like in His other apparitions, the risen Lord opens the minds of his disciples to understand the Scriptures and the reason He had to suffer – that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in His name, to all the nations. And this is precisely what we hear Peter proclaim, in today's first reading; and likewise John, in the second reading. At this Eucharistic celebration, as we encounter the risen Lord through the Scriptures and breaking of Bread, may we take seriously our mission of witnessing to our faith.

### READINGS:

- First Reading : Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19
- Responsorial Psalm : Ps 4: 2, 4, 7, 9
- Second Reading : 1 Jn 2: 1-5a
- Gospel : Lk 24: 35-48

### UNIVERSAL PRAYER:

**CELEBRANT:** The resurrection of Jesus assures us victory over sin and eternal damnation. So with confidence, we present our needs and petitions to our loving Father. Our response to each petition is: *Loving Father, hear our prayer*

- For the Holy Father, the Bishops, Priests, Religious and all who teach the Catholic faith: may the joy of the risen Christ fill them with zeal to proclaim the Good News and bear witness to it, through their lives ...*(brief silent pause)*... we ask this in faith.
- For leaders of nations, especially in multi-religious societies: that they may respect and safeguard the religious beliefs and practices of all ...*(brief silent pause)*... we ask this in faith.
- For those being persecuted for witnessing to Christ: that they may receive courage and hope from the risen Saviour, strengthening their resolve and helping them rise above their suffering ...*(brief silent pause)*... we ask this in faith.
- For the sick, the aged and home-bound: that the Good News of the resurrection and the nourishment they receive through Holy Communion may renew them in body, mind and spirit ...*(brief silent pause)*... we ask this in faith.
- For all of us gathered here: that at each Eucharistic celebration, as we hear His Word and share in His Body, may we truly experience the presence of the risen Christ in our lives, and bear witness to His Gospel ...*(brief silent pause)*... we ask this in faith.
- In silence we pray for our personal intentions and those in need of our prayers ...*(longer silent pause)*... we ask this in faith.

**CELEBRANT:** Father, may we always experience Your abiding presence, that we may be renewed in strength and filled with hope amidst the struggles of life. We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord... Amen.