

**April 30, 2020-Thursday, Third Week of Easter**

**St. James the Greater**

James the Greater was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and the brother of John the Apostle. He was a fisherman in Galilee when he was called to be a disciple.

He was the first apostle to be martyred for his faith and his death is described in the Acts of the Apostles—the only apostle’s death to be detailed in the New Testament.

Legend says that after the resurrection of Jesus, James preached in Spain before returning to Jerusalem. After his death, his followers transported his body back to Spain, where it is said to be buried at the Shrine of Santiago de Compostela. It has also been a popular spiritual destination for pilgrims since medieval times.

St. James is the patron saint of Spain and of laborers.

The Catholic Church celebrates his feast on July 25, while the Eastern Byzantine Church celebrates the feast of St. James the Greater today.

*And the risen Jesus said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.*

(Luke 24:25-27)

As near as scholars can tell, Luke wrote his Gospel 40 or 50 years after the death and resurrection of Christ, for people who had never met Jesus.

One reason why this story of Jesus on the road to Emmaus was specially cherished by the early Christian community and incorporated into the Gospels is because this story portrays what we do each Sunday at the Eucharist.

The passage begins with the gathering rite when the disciples come together with Jesus. Then there is the Liturgy of the Word where there is conversation about the great issues of life and the Scripture is used to help understand those issues.

The conversation is followed by the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the breaking of bread. Finally, there is the dismissal rite when all this is done and we go out to tell the good news to other people by the way we live and by the things we say.

Just like the disciples who walked with Jesus on the way to Emmaus.

Spend some quiet time with the Lord