

# Pastoral Message: May 1, 2022

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I decided for the pastoral reflection to focus on a scripture from the Easter season rather than this weekend's gospel, the appearance of Jesus to the disciples in Jerusalem Luke 24: 36-49. The scripture reminds us that resurrection is a process and takes time. Jesus comes into the disciple's midst saying peace be with you. And, yet, the disciples are afraid. They had seen the cruelty and brutality of Jesus' death, and it took them time to experience Jesus risen in a new way. Perhaps this applies to our faith; too we often have to work through fear, doubt, failure and allow the Lord's peace to draw us into new life. When Jesus says peace to the disciples, this is really shalom which means "I have no fear of you and hold nothing against you." This is what Jesus offers us, new life and new beginning. The good news of Jesus is that he meets us in our weakness and takes us to a new place. Easter is a season of resurrection where we move gradually, slowly, deeper into the new life of the risen Lord. The season is also a season of waiting for the Holy Spirit to carry us forward in mission. I think our challenge is that whatever we are called to do we are called to wait for the peace of the risen Christ that the Holy Spirit gives before we go forward to carry out our mission. How many times have probably all of us reacted not in that Spirit of Peace that is also a Spirit of courage? This is where we contribute to so much violence and destruction in our church and world. May we remember that we are in process and Jesus is very patient with us sinners to be led into that gravitational pull of the peace of the Holy Spirit who calls us to bring healing and to renew the face of the Earth.