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## From the Pastor's Desk.....

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During the season of Easter we are presented with the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to his disciples. Their first reactions are interesting: surprise, terror, incredulity.

But their fears turn to joy when they recognize that it is the Lord. It is his presence that brings about this transformation. It is his Shalom – “peace be with you” – that puts the disciples at ease and helps open their eyes to the reality of his presence among them.

But who is he? The disciples know without any doubt that Jesus was killed. Is it his ghost, then, that has appeared to them? Jesus is quick to discount this error of perception. No, Jesus appearance is corporal. It is the same Jesus who was with them during his ministry on earth. And to prove this he invites himself to a meal with them. This is no ghost, no phantom, no disembodied spirit. It is a bodily resurrection. But this same Jesus is different, for he now reveals himself as the Risen One in his glorified body. There is continuity with the Jesus that they had come to know and love, but there is also rupture, for Jesus has broken through the chains of death and has trodden down the powers of hell.

Jesus now reigns in glory. And he appears to his disciple as a friend and companion. This is true for us. The Risen One is just as present to us and he was to his disciples. He wants to be our friend and to give us his peace, his Shalom. When we offer one another the sign of peace during Mass it is the Lord himself who is present to us in one another. It is his words “peace be with you” that we dare to offer in his name.

Easter blessings,  
Gerard