

The Supper at Emmaus



The story of the walk to Emmaus is told in Luke, Chapter 24. Two disciples are walking the seven miles to Emmaus when the risen Jesus joins them and explains his life and death in terms of the Scriptures. They understand his teaching, but do not recognise him. When they arrive they persuade Jesus to stay for supper. Only when He gives thanks, breaks bread and gives

it to them are their eyes opened and they recognise him.

There is much to think about in this story. As Jesus talks and explains the travellers **understand** much about the significance of His life, and death. And they are moved to **act** in practical generosity – they are insistent that He take up their offer of hospitality. But it is only in the breaking of the bread that they see Jesus for who He is. Only then do they



experience the risen Lord. Their response is to rush back the seven miles they have just come to **share** the Good News with the disciples.



We have three pictures: a modern icon from the Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity in Parma, Ohio; Caravaggio's masterpiece, painted in 1600 and to be found in the National Gallery in London; and Velasquez's intriguing version painted around 1618 and in the National Gallery of Ireland. Auden wrote

About suffering they were never wrong, the Old Masters. How well they understood its human position; How it takes place While someone else is eating, or opening a window or just walking dully along. As with suffering, so too with moments of revelation.