

Saturday, April 25

The Mutual Consolation of the Saints

Luke 24:14–15, 33–34

“And they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ... And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!’”

Martin Luther spoke of the mutual consolation and conversation of the brothers and sisters as one of the ways God delivers His grace to us. It is listed alongside Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and Absolution—not as a sacrament, but as a genuine means by which Christ comforts and strengthens His people. That is exactly what we see in this text.

The disciples talk with each other about what has happened. Jesus draws near as they do. And when they return to Jerusalem, they find a gathering of believers who are already sharing, already consoling one another, already bearing witness to what they have seen and heard.

This is the beauty of the church. Each of us carries a different experience of Christ’s faithfulness. Some of us know Him through seasons of deep suffering.

Others have seen Him at work in quiet, ordinary days. Some carry stories of dramatic rescue; others carry the steady, sustained grace of daily bread and daily forgiveness. None of us has the cover of the puzzle box.

None of us sees the whole picture. But when we gather to share, to listen, to encourage, and to speak God’s Word to one another, the picture grows. We see more of Jesus together than we ever could alone.

So do not stay away from the gathering. Do not keep your piece of the puzzle to yourself. The body of Christ needs your story, and you need theirs.

Discussion Questions

1. What does “mutual consolation of the saints” mean to you in practical terms?
2. When has another believer’s story of God’s faithfulness strengthened your own faith?
3. How can your family be more intentional about sharing experiences of Christ with your church family?

Closing Prayer

Gracious Father, thank You for the gift of Your Church—a gathering of sinners made saints by the blood of Jesus. Teach us to share with one another, to listen to one another, and to console one another with the truth of the resurrection. Draw near to us as we speak of You, and give us eyes to see the risen Christ in our midst. Amen.

Family Action Item

Make a plan to invite someone from church over for a meal or a cup of coffee this week. Use it as an opportunity to share your stories of faith with each other. Ask them: “How have you seen God at work in your life lately?” Then listen—really listen—and give thanks for the piece of the puzzle they bring.

