

# LUTHERAN

## Background Thoughts:

The physical reality of Jesus was reassuring to the Jerusalem disciples.

The gift of Jesus' discernment gave the disciples the ability to see and understand.

The Gospel of Luke focuses on the body of Jesus

It is important for us to be physically present with each other

We are helpless to grasp the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus without illumination.

Christ's gift of himself, even physically, is example for us.

POINT: The Resurrection can point us to a holistic approach to life, one in which we no longer need to fear physical separation, or avoid personal contacts.

PROBLEM: Our vision of health and wholeness is limited by our self-centeredness. Unless we are dealing with our personal wholeness we tend not to think of it. We also feel the need to "keep things to ourselves" and not reach out to others.

POWER: God has given himself to us in a special way. The physical resurrection assures us of the victory over death for us who live in the flesh. Jesus is still "one of us" still willing to be with us.

INTRODUCTION: Touch and physical association are important to our security and confidence. "Being with" each other is part of being family or friend or church. Children respond to the closeness of parents.

- I. Jesus' appearance as physically "whole" helped to heal the hurting disciples.
  - A. He encouraged them to touch him so they could believe the reality of the resurrection and know that he was for real.
  - B. He ate a meal with them to show he was alive and still in fellowship with them – so they could believe the reality of reconciliation.
  
- II. The gift of Jesus' discernment opened the disciples' eyes to a new reality for their existence in this world.
  - A. Because they (and we) could be assured of the reality of Christ's presence with them (us) – they could boldly proclaim his presence to the world.
  - B. Christ becomes the example to share the reality of our healing by "showing ourselves alive" to those around us.
  
- III. The Fellowship we have together with God in Christ and with each other frees us from isolation and loneliness.
  - A. We have a need to be physically present with one another.
  - B. We are free to give ourselves to one another. (One possibility of that kind of giving in organ donation.)