

- “...*the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.*”
- What a wonderful Gospel today as we celebrate the reception of First Holy Communion for our little ones.
- Well, first of all...congratulations to all of you children receiving their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion today.
- This is one of the greatest days of your life—the day that you received Jesus Himself in this wonderful sacrament of the Eucharist.
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- You are really a bit young to realize the greatness of this day in your lives...and really NONE of us do or CAN truly understand fully the greatness of the Eucharist and of Holy Communion with Him.
- I think that when we are taken up to God at the end of our lives, we may begin to glimpse the grace and love the God has for us in this great sacrament of sacraments.
- After all...the Eucharist is no longer bread...it is no longer wine...but it really IS the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Himself—God Himself—whole and entire.
- There in the Eucharist IS Jesus...as if He walked out of time 2000 years ago and appeared to us as He appeared to the apostles in the upper room.
- We can hear Him saying to us as He said to Doubting Thomas:  
*“Doubt no longer, but believe.”*
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- Jesus—who with the Father and the Holy Spirit created the entire universe--comes to be in this little wafer...just for you...to be with YOU. He loves you that much.

- And where Jesus is, so is the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- That is why our bodies are temples not only of the Holy Spirit, but of the Son and the Father as well...and that is why we should treat our bodies with the greatest respect...not doing evil with them, but reserving ourselves for what is truly right and good.
- Because when we do evil...when we sin and do bad things...we are in a way pushing God out the back door...and opening the front door for the devil.
- If a hungry bear came around your house, would you open the door and let him in? Of course not...because you know that he would destroy your house, and he would even come after YOU.
- Well...that is what the devil does when we let him into the house of our bodies and souls...he wrecks our house more and more the longer we let him stay...and in the end, he comes after our very lives.
- So always seek the good and run from evil...for the devil hates... but God loves you so very deeply.
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- *(excerpts from the children's letters)*
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- Remember always that the Eucharist truly is THE sacrament of the love of God for YOU.
- Gather up all the love that exists in every person in the world, and it would be only a tiny drop compared to the ocean of the love of God—because all love comes FROM God. St. John tells us: *God IS love*...so whenever we love, then it is that we are closest to God.

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Lectionary: 46**

**Reading 1** [ACTS 2:14, 22-33](#)

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Then Peter stood up with the Eleven,  
raised his voice, and proclaimed:  
“You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem.  
Let this be known to you, and listen to my words.  
You who are Israelites, hear these words.  
Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God  
with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs,  
which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know.  
This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God,  
you killed, using lawless men to crucify him.  
But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death,  
because it was impossible for him to be held by it.  
For David says of him:  
*I saw the Lord ever before me,  
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.  
Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted;  
my flesh, too, will dwell in hope,  
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,  
nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption.  
You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence.*

“My brothers, one can confidently say to you  
about the patriarch David that he died and was buried,  
and his tomb is in our midst to this day.  
But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him  
that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne,  
he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ,  
that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld  
nor did his flesh see corruption.  
God raised this Jesus;  
of this we are all witnesses.  
Exalted at the right hand of God,  
he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father  
and poured him forth, as you see and hear.”

**Responsorial Psalm** [PS 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11](#)

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R/ (11a) **Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

or:

R/ **Alleluia.**

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;  
I say to the LORD, “My Lord are you.”  
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,

*First Holy Communion 2014*  
(Year A-Easter, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)

you it is who hold fast my lot.

R/ **Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

or:

R/ **Alleluia.**

I bless the LORD who counsels me;  
even in the night my heart exhorts me.

I set the LORD ever before me;  
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

R/ **Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

or:

R/ **Alleluia.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,  
my body, too, abides in confidence;  
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,  
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.

R/ **Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

or:

R/ **Alleluia.**

You will show me the path to life,  
abounding joy in your presence,  
the delights at your right hand forever.

R/ **Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

or:

R/ **Alleluia.**

**Reading 2** [1 PT 1:17-21](#)

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Beloved:

If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially  
according to each one's works,  
conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning,  
realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct,  
handed on by your ancestors,  
not with perishable things like silver or gold  
but with the precious blood of Christ  
as of a spotless unblemished lamb.

He was known before the foundation of the world  
but revealed in the final time for you,  
who through him believe in God  
who raised him from the dead and gave him glory,  
so that your faith and hope are in God.

**Gospel** [LK 24:13-35](#)

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That very day, the first day of the week,  
two of Jesus' disciples were going  
to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus,  
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

*First Holy Communion 2014*  
(Year A-Easter, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating,  
Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,  
but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.  
He asked them,  
“What are you discussing as you walk along?”  
They stopped, looking downcast.  
One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply,  
“Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem  
who does not know of the things  
that have taken place there in these days?”  
And he replied to them, “What sort of things?”  
They said to him,  
“The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene,  
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word  
before God and all the people,  
how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over  
to a sentence of death and crucified him.  
But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel;  
and besides all this,  
it is now the third day since this took place.  
Some women from our group, however, have astounded us:  
they were at the tomb early in the morning  
and did not find his body;  
they came back and reported  
that they had indeed seen a vision of angels  
who announced that he was alive.  
Then some of those with us went to the tomb  
and found things just as the women had described,  
but him they did not see.”  
And he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are!  
How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!  
Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things  
and enter into his glory?”  
Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,  
he interpreted to them what referred to him  
in all the Scriptures.  
As they approached the village to which they were going,  
he gave the impression that he was going on farther.  
But they urged him, “Stay with us,  
for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.”  
So he went in to stay with them.  
And it happened that, while he was with them at table,  
he took bread, said the blessing,  
broke it, and gave it to them.  
With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him,  
but he vanished from their sight.

***First Holy Communion 2014***  
(Year A-Easter, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)

Then they said to each other,  
“Were not our hearts burning within us  
while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?”  
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem  
where they found gathered together  
the eleven and those with them who were saying,  
“The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!”  
Then the two recounted  
what had taken place on the way  
and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.