

- “...*the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.*”
- Such a wonderful Gospel passage we have today as we celebrate the reception of First Holy Communion for our young ones.
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- First of all...congratulations to all of you young ones receiving your 1<sup>st</sup> Communion today...and welcome to all of you who have come to celebrate this day with them.
- This is one of the greatest days of your life—the day that you first receive Jesus Himself in this wonderful sacrament of the Eucharist.
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- You are a bit young to realize the greatness of this day in your lives...and, really, none of us can truly understand fully the greatness of the Eucharist and of communion with Him.
- The Church teaches us that it is:
  - the sacrament of sacraments...the source and summit of the Christian life...
  - ...and in the “blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ Himself...” (CCC 1324)...
  - ...it is the sacrifice Christ offered once for all on the cross remaining ever present...for which we give thanks with all our hearts.
- The word “Eucharist” itself means “thanksgiving”.
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- After the priest consecrates it, that little wafer is no longer bread... the liquid in the chalice is no longer wine...but truly they are the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Himself—God Himself.

- “*But it still looks like, smells like, tastes like bread and wine!*”
- Yes, but Jesus tells us: “*This is my body; this is my blood.*”
- We know it is His Body and Blood because Jesus—God!—tells us it is! and has made it so...He who leads us into all truth.
  
- Jesus—who with the Father and the Holy Spirit created the universe—comes to be in this little wafer...just for you...to be with YOU. He loves you that much.
- That why it’s so important to always do good and to follow what Jesus teaches us. When we sin, we are pushing God out the back door...and opening the front door for evil.
- 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 then he would 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.
- So always seek the good and run from evil...because God loves you so very deeply, and always wants only the best for you.
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- *(excerpts from the children’s letters)*
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- If you could 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 God’s love—because all love comes FROM God. St. John tells us: *God IS love*...so whenever we love, it is then that we come closest to Him.

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- And so...rest in His love on this you 1<sup>st</sup> Communion day, and may He bless you all today and always...and keep you ever close to His heart.

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**Reading 1** [ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19](#)

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Peter said to the people:

“The God of Abraham,  
the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,  
the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus,  
whom you handed over and denied in Pilate’s presence  
when he had decided to release him.  
You denied the Holy and Righteous One  
and asked that a murderer be released to you.  
The author of life you put to death,  
but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses.  
Now I know, brothers,  
that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did;  
but God has thus brought to fulfillment  
what he had announced beforehand  
through the mouth of all the prophets,  
that his Christ would suffer.

**Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away.”**

**Responsorial Psalm** [PS 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9](#)

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R. (7a) **Lord, let your face shine on us.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

When I call, answer me, O my just God,  
you who relieve me when I am in distress;  
have pity on me, and hear my prayer!

R. **Lord, let your face shine on us.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Know that the LORD does wonders for his faithful one;  
the LORD will hear me when I call upon him.

R. **Lord, let your face shine on us.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

O LORD, let the light of your countenance shine upon us!  
You put gladness into my heart.

R. **Lord, let your face shine on us.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

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As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep,  
for you alone, O LORD,  
bring security to my dwelling.

R. **Lord, let your face shine on us.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

**Reading 21 JN 2:1-5A**

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My children, I am writing this to you  
so that you may not commit sin.  
But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ the righteous one.  
He is expiation for our sins,  
and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world.  
The way we may be sure that we know him is to keep  
his commandments.  
Those who say, "I know him," but do not keep his commandments  
are liars, and the truth is not in them.  
But whoever keeps his word,  
the love of God is truly perfected in him.

**Alleluia CF. LK 24:32**

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R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;  
make our hearts burn while you speak to us.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel LK 24:35-48**

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The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way,  
and how Jesus was made known to them  
in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this,  
he stood in their midst and said to them,  
"Peace be with you."  
But they were startled and terrified  
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.  
Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled?  
And why do questions arise in your hearts?  
Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.  
Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones  
as you can see I have."  
And as he said this,

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he showed them his hands and his feet.  
While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed,  
he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?"  
They gave him a piece of baked fish;  
he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them,  
"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you,  
that everything written about me in the law of Moses  
and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled."  
Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.  
And he said to them,  
"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer  
and rise from the dead on the third day  
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,  
would be preached in his name  
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.  
You are witnesses of these things."