

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Third Sunday of Easter • Year B • April 14, 2024

*Loving God,
in Scripture you speak to us your holy Word
that we might be opened to Mystery,
and in the Eucharist you give us your own Presence
that we might know you in the breaking of bread.*

*Nourish us, O Lord, as we journey along the way of your Son.
Amen.*

Sunday Word and Eucharist

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-9
1 John 2:1-5a
Luke 24:35-48

Reflection

Deepen

From the first moment you entered the initiation process, you have been on a journey of discovery. It has entailed multiple discoveries about God, the Church, you, and other believers who have been and are your companions along the way.

A good portion of that journey revolved around Sacred Scripture. You heard it celebrated during the Liturgy of the Word, you pondered it, and your reflections and discussions centered on it. Sacred Scripture acted as a springboard into Church teaching, the accumulated wisdom of the centuries distilled into doctrinal statements. Your reflections, discussions, and Church teaching itself led you, in turn, to put God's Word into practice in life—in other words, to make a difference in the world as a believer.

All this has led you to the Eucharistic feast, the sacrament that continues to nourish believers with the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. That sacred nourishment gives us strength to carry the Good News of Jesus to everyone we meet.

Meditate

After the Crucifixion of Jesus, two of his disciples are fleeing that horrific event in Jerusalem. On the way, a stranger joins them. They discuss what has happened with him. The stranger explains the Scriptures to them, interpreting God's Word in light of the Jerusalem events. They invite the stranger to share a meal with them. When he breaks the bread, the disciples' eyes are opened. It is Jesus himself, risen from the dead! In joy, they are motivated to return to Jerusalem (today's Gospel) to share with the other disciples their experience of the Risen Lord. As they are relaying this Good News, Christ appears among them, wishing them peace. He calms their fears and eats a meal to prove that he is no ghost

Take a moment to consider the gift of the Eucharist, this wondrous meal. It is a relatively new gift, since you have only begun to partake of it over these past several weeks. But you have been preparing for it throughout this initiation process. As you look back from the vantage point of the Eucharist, how do you see God preparing you for the breaking of the bread in the earlier parts of the initiation process?

Share

The words *companion* and *company* derive from two Latin root words for *with* and *bread*—that is, those who break bread together. To accompany another is to break bread together, to share a meal. The Risen Lord is made known to the disciples in a simple meal.

What is it about breaking bread together that is so appealing—in fact, sometimes so powerful? Why do friends gather to share a meal? What does the Eucharist tell you about God? What does it tell you about the Church and us as companions along the way?

Do!

Invite a friend whom you have not seen for awhile to supper. If you have not already done so, share your journey of faith. Listen to your friend's own journey of life and faith. Celebrate and renew your friendship.

For Reflection . . .

Eating and drinking together is a shared pleasure. How might it also sometimes be a challenge?