

Eucharistic Series - Part 4

“Our Response”

- Prepare beforehand: have participants bring a Bible and journal, or have a copy of this document for each person. Snacks help build community, too!

- Opening Prayer (together):

O boundless charity! Just as you gave us yourself, wholly God and wholly human, so you left us all of yourself as food so that while we are pilgrims in this life, we might not collapse in our weariness but be strengthened by you, heavenly food.* Jesus, please guide our conversation today, drawing us closer to you and to one another. Amen.
(*The Prayers of St. Catherine of Siena)

- Warm Up Questions (feel free to substitute your own): Who is your Confirmation saint, or a saint you feel an affinity towards? What thoughts have been resonating with you about last week’s topic of “Communion and Community”? Who did you invite to mass, and how did the conversation go?

- Video (6 minutes): Dave Ellerhorst shares a story about His response to a deep encounter he experienced following a teaching he received about the Eucharist.

- After watching the video: What are your thoughts about Dave’s story, and how does it relate to your own thoughts or experiences concerning the Trinity?

- Group Reflection (30-40 minutes) Luke 24: 13-35. This event takes place on the day of the resurrection.

The Walk to Emmaus

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, **14** and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. **15** While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. **16** But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. **17** And he said to them, “What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. **18** Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” **19** And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20** and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be

condemned to death, and crucified him. **21** But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. **22** Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning **23** and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. **24** Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see.” **25** And he said to them, “O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” **27** And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, **29** but they constrained him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. **30** When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. **31** And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. **32** They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?” **33** And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, **34** who said, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” **35** Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

1. The two people in this story are disciples of Jesus. On the day of the resurrection, their faith is faltering. What does Jesus do and say in vv. 19, 25-27 to respond to their faltering faith?
2. Jesus’ patient response to their doubt goes so far as to explain all of the scriptures about himself to his disciples. When in your life have you experienced God’s patience or mercy with your own doubts?
3. Do you believe that Jesus will patiently explain the scriptures about himself to you? What, if anything, holds you back from believing this? How can Jesus overcome your doubts?
4. When the disciples told Jesus in v. 29, “Stay with us,” he stayed with them. What is Jesus’ response to us when we ask him to stay with us? (hint: the answer is always the same as it was for those disciples!) Where are the many places Jesus stays with us?
5. What was Jesus’ next action in v. 30?
6. After the disciples recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread, what do they say to one another? What do they do next?
7. St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “Once you understand the Eucharist, you can never leave the Church. Not because the Church won’t let you, but because your heart won’t let you.” What is **your** personal response as you come to know Jesus more deeply in the breaking of the bread?

ALL PLAY QUESTION: How will you continue to respond to Jesus' love for you in the Eucharist as we move forward from this experience?

Challenge for this week and moving forward: Spend time with Jesus in Adoration, letting Him adore and strengthen you for the work He has called you to do, to bring about his kingdom! Sign up for a regular holy hour, as a substitute adorer, or just stop in to any church to spend time in front of the tabernacle with him. The closest adoration chapel to St. Dennis is Mary Morningstar Chapel: 4905 Schofield St., Monona, WI 53716. Hours are 6am - 8pm.
<https://marymorningstarchapelwi.com/>

Final Announcement & Invitation for everyone: On Nov. 6, 2022, 6:30-7:30pm, join us at St. Dennis for an evening of Prayer and Adoration as we wrap up our Eucharistic Series! Worship, adoration, Benediction, a children's reflection, and treats will all be involved. See you there and bring your friends!!

- Closing Prayer: Go around the circle, each person mentioning a prayer request for yourself and please also pray for all people, for a renewed fervor to love Jesus in the Eucharist. When you are finished, pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be for those intentions, through the intercession of St. Dennis and all of your patron saints. God bless you, everyone! See you at mass!

- Recommended for further learning:
 - [Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist, Brant Pitre](#) (book)
 - [The Fourth Cup, Scott Hahn](#) (book)
 - [Eucharistic Revival Website](#) (website from USCCB)
 - [The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church](#), US Conference of Catholic Bishops (PDF document)

Bonus questions for personal journaling follow. Ask these questions to Jesus in prayer, and write the answers in your journal. When you re-read your response, you will be able to recognize words from the Holy Spirit speaking to you!

- Jesus, how do you want to fill me with your love and power?
- Jesus, how can I stay close to your Eucharistic heart?
- Jesus, who do you want me to share your love with?