

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Year of the Eucharist: August/September 2020

Theme:

"They recognized him in the breaking of the bread"

Preparations:

1. You will need to decide beforehand if you are going to do a dramatization of the story. You can use puppets to act out the story, or mime the actions, such as walking on the road, inviting Jesus into a house, walking quickly back to Jerusalem to tell the other followers of Jesus. You could use puppets or figures on a storyboard. The only prop you will need are some flat bread like pita.

2. With older children, you could do a dramatic reading of the passage. Break the passage into parts beforehand and assign the parts to your family members who are participating.

Introduction:

The readings selected for September and August include a short passage from the first epistle of John, and a story from the Gospel of Luke called "The Road to Emmaus." When you hear the Gospel story, listen carefully for the part of the story where the two friends realize that the person they are with, is Jesus.

Readings:

First Reading: 1 John 1: 1-3

Before the Gospel Reading, create the setting:

This story happens after Jesus has died on the cross. Two people who knew Jesus are walking on a road going to a small town called Emmaus - not far from Jerusalem. They are sad because Jesus has died and they do not know if the rumors are true that he has risen from the dead.

Close your eyes for a minute and imagine a road which is made of dirt. It is a rural road in a place where there are not many trees. People are occasionally walking on the road in small groups. Sometimes someone has a donkey carrying packages or there is a shepherd with his sheep. Sometimes you see some goats.

Listen for the part of the story when the two friends recognize that the man with them is truly the risen Jesus. Give your child(ren) directions to open their eyes particularly if you have something visual for them to accompany the story.

Gospel Reading: Luke: 24: 13-35

Reflection:

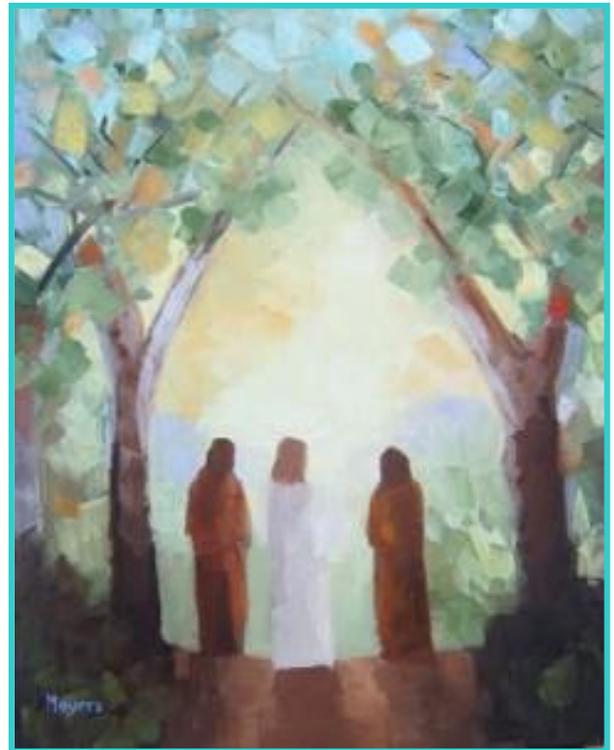
Talk with your child(ren) about what had just happened in Jerusalem that made the two friends so sad. When did they recognize Jesus? What did the friends do after they realized that it was Jesus they had been with on their journey?

In this story, the two friends did not immediately recognize Jesus when they met him on the road. In all the stories when Jesus appears after the resurrection, the people in the story do not recognize him right away, so this is not unusual. Jesus walked with them, he taught them and he broke bread with them. It was when Jesus broke the bread that they finally knew who he was and they walked right back to Jerusalem and told other friends who followed Jesus. They were spreading the good news.

Jesus is with us, too, even when we do not recognize him. Jesus is with us everyday no matter where we are and, when we gather together for Mass, Jesus is present among us. Jesus comes to us in a special way in the Eucharist. That's why going to communion is a way to stay close to Jesus.

Conclusion:

Conclude by praying the Creed and Intercessions together.
(Found on the following pages)



Creed:

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



Intercessions:

For all priests, that they may be renewed, strengthened and drawn closer to God and his people as they celebrate the Eucharist, we pray to the Lord.

We pray that the gift of the Eucharist may strengthen us and unite us as members of one body, we pray to the Lord.

For all who share in the celebration of the Eucharist, that they will continue to grow in love and appreciation for Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, we pray to the Lord.

