

Take-Home 11: Known in the Breaking of the Bread

What We Found

On Easter evening, two disciples (Luke names only Cleopas) walked away from Jerusalem carrying all the facts and none of the meaning: we had hoped. The risen Jesus drew near and, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, interpreted in all the scriptures the things concerning himself, the very method of our twelve weeks, in his mouth first. At table came four verbs, took, blessed, broke, gave, closely matching Luke's pattern at the feeding (9:16) and the Last Supper (22:19, where he says gave thanks); their eyes were opened, they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight, leaving them the burning and the road, and, as the Fathers reflected, the bread in which he chose to be known.

Luke gives us the phrase from that evening, he was known to them in the breaking of the bread (24:35), and by Acts 2:42 the breaking of bread stands among the things the newborn community devoted itself to. The Mass still moves as Emmaus moved: the Scriptures opened, then the bread broken, one act of worship at two tables (CCC 1329, 1346-1347).

Voices of the Church

St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

In summary of his Easter preaching (see Sermon 235): where did the Lord will to be recognized? In the breaking of the bread. And it was written for us, who do not see him with our eyes: he has not withdrawn from us what he gave at that table.

St. John Paul II (1920-2005)

In summary of *Mane Nobiscum Domine*: Emmaus is the image of the whole Christian life; wherever hope has died into we had hoped, the risen Christ draws near on the road, warms the heart through the Scriptures, and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897)

From *Story of a Soul*, in summary: it is not to remain in the golden ciborium that Christ comes down each day from heaven, but to find another heaven, the heaven of our soul, in which he takes his delight.

Live It This Week

- At Mass, live the two tables deliberately: during the readings, ask him to make your heart burn; at the fraction, pray: let me know you in the breaking of the bread.
- Take one walk this week with no phone, and narrate the road to Christ as the two disciples did, griefs and dead hopes included.
- Pray Stay with us, Lord each evening at dusk, and bring your running lists next week.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. Luke 24:35

Before Next Session

Read Genesis 22:1-14 one final time before the next session.

Catechism references for this session: CCC 1329, 1346-1347, 1391-1392.