

Thursday, April 23

Known in the Breaking of the Bread

Luke 24:28–31

“So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if He were going farther, but they urged Him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.’ So He went in to stay with them. When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And He vanished from their sight.”

All along the road the disciples had been listening to this stranger open the Scriptures. Their hearts burned within them, but still they did not see who He was. It was not until He took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them that their eyes were opened.

He was known to them in the breaking of the bread. There is a reason the Church has always heard eucharistic overtones in this moment. Jesus takes, blesses, breaks, and gives—the same four verbs of the Lord’s Supper.

And it is precisely there, at His table, that He reveals Himself. This is how Christ still makes Himself known to us today. We may search for Him in spectacular signs, in powerful feelings, in extraordinary experiences.

But He has promised to meet us in the ordinary means He has chosen: bread and wine, water and Word. You do not need to look over your shoulder wondering whether Jesus is near. He has told you where He will be.

He is in the preached Gospel. He is in the water of Holy Baptism. He is in the bread and wine of His Supper.

His body, given for you. His blood, shed for you. Eyes opened.

Christ revealed.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus chose the breaking of bread as the moment to reveal Himself?
2. How does the Lord’s Supper strengthen your faith week after week?
3. What does it mean for your daily life that Jesus has promised to be present in specific places?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You have promised to be present for us in Your Word and Sacraments. Open our eyes to recognize You at Your table. Strengthen our faith through Your true body and blood, and send us out to share what we have received. Amen.

Family Action Item

Before your next time receiving the Lord’s Supper, read Luke 24:28–31 together as a family. Talk about how the disciples’ eyes were opened at the table, and pray that God would open your eyes to see Jesus present for you in the bread and wine.