

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2023

Blessed, Broken, and Shared

This Jesus shows up, the most whole and perfect person among us, and he doesn't even have to fake it. And what does he do? He breaks himself open and pours himself out. Shattered, vulnerable, bleeding, and hanging on a cross. "Do this in memory of me," he says. We tape the pieces of our lives together and try to pretend we're not broken; he breaks himself apart and distributes the pieces to all of us so that we have a chance to be whole for real with him.

To fully appreciate Eucharist, it is worthwhile to reflect on the wisdom behind the penitential rite. It itches, but think about it. What's one of the first things we do when we come together for Mass? We all admit we're broken. We all own up to the fact that we come as flawed pilgrims on a journey toward wholeness, a journey we haven't yet completed.

Living with Real Presence: Eucharist As An Approach to Life
S. James Meyer, 23rd Publications

Questions To Ponder:

What story or parable in the Scriptures really challenges you and your worldview—that feels “scratchy” to you? What is it that “rubs” you in this way?

Was there a message in a homily that really stuck with you over the years? What was the message? Why do you think it sticks in your heart and mind?

Recall a time in which you felt totally broken apart and in need of repair and healing. To whom or to what did you turn? How did you get “taped back together?”

Lectio Divina: Read John 11:1-45

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.” Martha said to him, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue your Lenten journey?

Challenge for the Week:

Look for situations which require healing and forgiveness this week. Then, bring those situations to Mass as you enter into the healing and forgiveness of the Penitential Rite. What should happen next?