

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023

He Broke Himself Open

Jesus' words, "Do this in memory of me" present us with a much bigger task than we're often comfortable admitting. He's asking us to break ourselves open as he did, and to be vulnerable as he was. That's hard. Really hard. Pinned against the earth under the weight of stresses and anxieties, we'd rather be self-protective, self-defensive, self-interested, and self-advancing. Break ourselves open? Be vulnerable? No thank you. No wonder we're comfortable reducing Eucharist to an object rather than an action, to a wafer rather than a way of life. It may be safer to stop at merely receiving the Eucharist, but it's so much more enriching and rewarding to receive, become, and share the Eucharist.

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

Questions To Ponder:

Recall a moment in your life when you felt the most vulnerable. In hindsight, what growth might you have experienced through this situation?

What do the words "receive, become, and share the Eucharist" mean to you in your life?

Name some things which cause you to struggle with your efforts to love other people, especially those most unlike yourself?

Lectio Divina: Read John 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

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

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue the journey beyond this season of Easter?

Challenge for the Week: On a piece of paper, create a listing of folks connected to your life as they fall into the following circles of influence. Hold each group in prayer.

