



Our Mission
SHARE CHRIST
—  —
WITH THE WORLD



**SAINT MARY
MAGDALEN**
CATHOLIC CHURCH

OUR MISSION, OUR MESSAGE **Easter Season 2021**

This is the season when we, “Easter People”, become to understand our role as important players in the Easter story. This week, we consider how we are also “Eucharistic People”.

We are on mission to Share Christ with the World - as Christian stewards, as disciples individually, and working together as the community of Saint Mary Magdalen. Our message follows the course of the Easter Season scripture, through the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel instruction from the Risen Jesus, reminding us that we were created for love and called to share the Good News of salvation.

Prayer to Share the Joy of Easter

Good and gracious God, Our most glorious Creator, We praise you in this Easter season.
Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever and ever. AMEN

Oración para compartir la alegría de la Pascua

Dios bueno y misericordioso, Nuestro más glorioso Creador,
Te alabamos en esta temporada de Pascua y siempre.
Cambia nuestras vidas, cambia nuestros corazones para ser mensajeros
de la alegría y la esperanza pascuales.
Te lo pedimos por Jesucristo, nuestro Señor resucitado por los siglos de los siglos. AMÉN

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – April 18, 2021

FIRST READING ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19 • SECOND READING: 1 JN 2:1-5a

GOSPEL LK 24:35-48

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."

And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed,

he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

READINGS: The Acts of the Apostles offers five speeches by Peter. Today he preaches after healing a crippled man. He begins by placing blame for the death of Jesus. But now, through the witness of the disciples, they know better and must reform through repentance to believe in the Messiah.

The second reading is reinforcing: We should not sin - but if we do, be comforted that Jesus, our advocate, died to free us. True knowledge of Christ should lead us to keep the commandments.

GOSPEL: This Gospel follows on the heels of the famous Emmaus story. As the two disciples describe their encounter with Jesus, he suddenly reappears to them. But they are scared and have no idea who he is - they think he is a ghost. Jesus tries to bring them to faith by appealing to their "sense of touch": "Look at my hands and feet," and to their reason: "Ghosts have no flesh."

Jesus opens their minds to the law, the prophets and psalms - all pointing to his coming. The disciples are commissioned to go forth as his witnesses: "Penance and remission of sins must be preached to all nations."

DISCUSSION

1. **RECONCILIATION:** Sin and repentance, and mercy are mentioned in today's readings.
 - What helps you balance all three - awareness of sinfulness, need to repent. the gift of mercy?
 2. **ENCOUNTERS:** In today's gospel, we see Jesus, yet again, gathered with the apostles in the Upper Room, sacred space. It was in the Upper Room that Jesus instituted the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconciliation. It was to that room that Jesus beckoned his disciples and fueled them with the energy to go into the mission field. Today, we are witnesses of the truth of the Eucharist and the effects that an encounter with Christ has on our lives.
 - You were not there 2000 years ago, but have you had encounters with Christ that you would consider akin to being at the foot of the cross, at the open tomb, on the road to Emmaus, or in the Upper Room? When did you recognize His presence – and why?
 3. **RECEIVING CHRIST, SHARING CHRIST IN EUCHARIST** - *"The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread."* Discuss how we know and have Christ in the breaking of the bread.
 1. **In your own words, Eucharist is ...?**
 2. **To participate in Eucharist means ...?**
 3. **What are Sundays for you? What do Sundays mean to Monday, Tuesday, etc...?**
 4. **What action do you take from Bishop Barron saying: "The Eucharistic Christ is our mission"?**
- *Bishop Robert Barron: "The Eucharist is Christ himself, personally and actively present. The embodiment of the Paschal Mystery, the Eucharist is Jesus' love for the world unto death ... we don't fully understand who Jesus is until we sit down with him at the sacred sacrificial banquet that makes present his saving cross. Finally, having seen, having received Christ, we move presumably in a more correct direction. As we "Go Forth, the Mass is ended" the Eucharistic Christ is our mission."* [Word on Fire Gospels, p446-7]

- *Pope Francis in Laudato Si': p236.* It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation. Grace, which tends to manifest itself tangibly, found unsurpassable expression when God himself became man and gave himself as food for his creatures. The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. **He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours. In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living centre of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life. Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God. Indeed, the Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love...**

p237. On Sunday, our participation in the Eucharist has special importance. Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world. Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, the "first day" of the new creation, whose first fruits are the Lord's risen humanity, the pledge of the final transfiguration of all created reality. It also proclaims "man's eternal rest in God".[168] In this way, Christian spirituality incorporates the value of relaxation and festivity.... **And so the day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds it light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.**

Fr. Charlie's reflection: <https://vimeo.com/537430987>

ON MISSION THIS WEEK

Share Christ by inviting someone to Mass – to experience an encounter with the Lord, sharing what brings you joy each Sunday - prayer, Eucharist, being in communion with our parish family.