



# The Well

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# AFTER THE *Resurrection*

## PART 1: PARTICIPATION IN CHRIST

*Holy Week is over...now what?*

**“AND THEIR WORDS SEEMED TO THEM LIKE IDLE TALES, AND THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THEM.” LUKE 24:11**

### **THE DISCIPLES ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

*see Luke 24:13-35*

“Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight...And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.” *Luke 24:30-31, 35*

**THE GOAL OF A RELATIONSHIP ISN'T KNOWLEDGE;  
IT'S \_\_\_\_\_.**

**JESUS DIDN'T COME TO SHARE INFORMATION;  
HE CAME TO SHARE \_\_\_\_\_.**

“...to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” *Acts 1:3*

## SACRAMENTS ARE HOW WE PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST \_\_\_\_\_ .

“You are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” *Matthew 16:18-19*

“..as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.” *2 Peter 1:3-4*

## SACRAMENTS ARE AN \_\_\_\_\_ BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH.

### THINK/TALK IT OVER:

1. How has your life changed from before Easter to today?
2. Is your relationship with Christ focused on knowledge or intimacy?
3. How would you describe your attitude towards the sacraments?

# AFTER THE *Resurrection*

## PART 2: PRIESTHOOD

“...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness... that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.”

2 Peter 1:3-4

“He (the devil) always sends errors into the world in pairs--pairs of opposites...He relies on your extra dislike of one to draw you gradually into the opposite one.”

CS Lewis

“So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

John 20:21-23

### WHAT ABOUT MATTHEW 23:9?

“Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.” Matthew 23:9

**NOT EVERY VERSE APPLIES TO \_\_\_\_\_ .**

“Then Peter said to Him, “Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?” Luke 12:41

**JESUS WASN'T ABOLISHING THE PRIESTHOOD;  
HE WAS GIVING IT \_\_\_\_\_ .**

# PRIESTHOOD IS THE SACRAMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_IN HIS CHURCH.

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...” Hebrews 1:1-2

[Priesthood] is the sacrament of Christ’s presence in the Church. It is the mystery of the presence of the head and bridegroom with his body and his bride in all the fullness of his messianic presence and power, with all the fullness of grace and truth of the eternal life of the kingdom of God which he brings. Jesus Christ is present in the Church as its head and husband, king and lord, priest and pastor, prophet and teacher, reconciler and healer. The realization and manifestation of his presence is the sacrament of the ordained clergy which is an essential element of the one “great mystery... Christ and the Church” (Ephesians 5:32).”

Fr. Thomas Hopko

“And no man takes this honor [priesthood] to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.” Hebrews 5:4

“It is the sacrament of Christ’s abiding presence in the Church as its husband and head, priest and pastor, prophet and teacher, master and lord, forgiver, reconciler, healer. It is the mystery within the great mystery of Christ and the Church which guarantees the objective presence of salvation in the body, for it guarantees the objective presence of the Savior in all the fullness and power of his theandric (divine/human), messianic activity.” Fr. Thomas Hopko

## THINK/TALK IT OVER:

1. Describe your general attitude towards priesthood. Do you lean to either extreme?
2. In your own words, what does it mean that “Christ is present through the priesthood”?
3. How does your view of priesthood impact your view of the sacraments?

# AFTER THE Resurrection

## PART 3: BAPTISM

“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:3-4

### OUTCOME #1: REGENERATION

*“the process of being reborn (born again) or recreated (made new)”*

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” John 3:3-6

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12-13

**REGENERATION MEANS A NEW \_\_\_\_\_,**  
**WITH A NEW \_\_\_\_\_**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

“You see how many are the benefits of baptism, and some think its heavenly grace consists only in the remission of sins, but... it does not simply take away our sins, nor simply cleanse us from our faults, but so as if we were born again. For it creates and fashions us anew not forming us again out of earth, but creating us out of another element, namely, of the nature of water. For it does not simply wipe the vessel clean, but entirely remolds it again. For that which is wiped clean, even if it be cleaned with care, has traces of its former condition, and bears the remains of its defilement, but that which falls into the new mold, and is renewed by means of the flames, laying aside all uncleanness, comes forth from the furnace, and sends forth the same brilliancy with things newly formed.” John Chrysostom, 349-407 AD

## OUTCOME #2: ADOPTION

“...we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” Romans 8:16-17

**ADOPTION MEANS \_\_\_\_\_**  
**WITH \_\_\_\_\_ .**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ..., having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself,” Ephesians 1:3-5

**WE BECOME BY GRACE, WHAT CHRIST IS BY NATURE.**

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:26-29

**BAPTISM IS ALL  
ABOUT WHO I AM, AND WHOSE I AM TOO.**

### THINK/TALK IT OVER:

1. Prior to today, how would you have described what happens in Baptism? What new understanding did you gain today?
2. How does it feel to know that you are adopted into God’s family and a “heir with Christ”?
3. “We become by grace, what Christ is by nature.” What impact does/should that have on your daily life?

# AFTER THE *Resurrection*

## PART 4: CONFESSION

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” Acts 2:38-39

### THE MISSION OF JESUS: HEALING

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” Matthew 9:35

“Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.” Mark 6:56

“When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.” Luke 4:40

**CONFESSION IS WHERE WE RECEIVE THE  
\_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRIST TODAY.**

“He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean.” John 13:10

**CONFESSION ISN'T ABOUT JUDGING A SIN.  
IT'S ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_.**

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONFESSION

**1ST CENTURY:** Persecuted Church (no need for confession)

## **2ND CENTURY:** People born into Christianity (public penance)

“Families are divided; a son dies a martyr, but his mother and sister apostasize. ‘Born Christians’ rush to sacrifice and as quickly beg – or demand – restoration to that society whose benefits they had so long enjoyed.” Cyprian of Carthage

“This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, so that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow.” 2 Corinthians 2:6-7

## **3RD CENTURY:** Monastic Movement (progress vs perfection)

Less about sin in need of correction,  
more about \_\_\_\_\_ in need of \_\_\_\_\_ .

“...and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.” Matthew 4:24

*“The Mystery of Confession is where the Holy Spirit takes the action of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and applies it to the sin of the individual.” H.G. Bishop Benyameen*

### **THINK/TALK IT OVER:**

1. If you ask Jesus, what sicknesses would be most on His mind today?
2. How would someone with a “medicinal” view approach confession differently than someone with a “juridical” view? Which are you?
3. What might you be missing out on by not confessing more regularly?

*Answer Key: healing touch, healing a person, sinner, healing*

## PART 5: EUCHARIST

“...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness... that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.” 2 Peter 1:3-4

**THE EUCHARIST IS THE \_\_\_\_\_  
OF CHRIST’S MINISTRY ON EARTH.**

### 1. WHAT HAPPENS IN THE EUCHARIST?

“I believe, I believe, I believe and confess to the last breath; that this is the Life-giving Body that Your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ took from our lady, the lady of us all, the holy Theotokos, St. Mary. He made It One with His divinity without mingling, without confusion, and without alteration.” Liturgy of St. Basil

“The Holy Eucharist is the repetition of the Last Supper. It is also the self-same sacrifice of the cross, repeated mystically. This does not mean that it is “done all over again” but rather, “once again made actual and present to those of us living today. The Divine Liturgy is not a reenactment of the Eucharistic Mystery, but a timeless, eternal recapitulation (recreation) and mystical participation in the Divine Kingdom.” Ambrose of Milan

**WE RECEIVE THE \_\_\_\_\_ BODY AND BLOOD  
JESUS OFFERED AT THE \_\_\_\_\_ .**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.” John 6:53-56

“We receive within us the same body of our Lord Christ that was born in the manger of Bethlehem, the same body that walked on the sea of Galilee, the same body that was crucified on Calvary, the same body that was resurrected from the tomb, the same body that ascended into heaven and now sits on the right hand of the Father. There is no power in life greater than this.” St. John Chrysostom

## 2. WHAT HAPPENS BECAUSE OF THE EUCHARIST?

### \_\_\_\_\_ BETWEEN GOD AND MAN/ME IS RESTORED

“...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one,”  
John 17:21-23

### BY \_\_\_\_\_ THE BODY OF CHRIST, WE \_\_\_\_\_ THE BODY OF CHRIST.

“In the mystery of the Eucharist, human beings are interpenetrated by the Divine, just as a rod of iron, thrust into a searing flame soon becomes itself a fire engulfed in flame. Thus the human is made divine, without of course giving up its natural qualities...Our human nature is intertwined with Christ, intermingled with the Divine reality.” Stavropoulos

### COMMUNION IS WHAT HE CAME FOR AND WHAT I WAS MADE FOR.

#### THINK/TALK IT OVER:

1. How has your definition of a sacrament changed over the course of this series?
2. Why is communion so essential to us as Christians?
3. What is one change that you want to make once churches are reopened and the Eucharist is available once again?

# STSA MINISTRIES

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TO YOUR MODERN WORLD

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