

# READINGS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE FIRST TIME



**YEAR A, B and C**

# Suggested readings

This resource is for parish celebrations of Holy Communion for the first time in the Easter Season.

Each liturgical year has a suggested set of readings for the celebration, following years A, B and C in the cycle.

These years correspond to the year named in the table below.

LITURGICAL YEAR	Numeric YEAR
<b>A</b>	2026
<b>B</b>	2027
<b>C</b>	2028
<b>A</b>	2029
<b>B</b>	2030

Each year has a theme.

- For **YEAR A** the theme is Bread of Life
- For **YEAR B** the theme is Thanksgiving
- FOR **YEAR C** the theme is The Breaking of the Bread

*\*The translation of the readings is from the International Children's Version*

# YEAR A – Bread of Life

## **FIRST READING: ACTS 2: 42 – 47**

The whole community spent their time learning the apostles' teaching. And they continued to share, to break bread, and to pray together. The apostles were doing many miracles and signs. And everyone felt great respect for God. All the believers stayed together. They shared everything. They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those people who needed it. The believers met together in the Temple every day. They all had the same purpose. They broke bread in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God, and all the people liked them. More and more people were being saved every day; the Lord was adding those people to the group of believers.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

## **PSALM 22 – The Lord's my Shepherd (used in GROW IN LOVE)**

## **SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10: 16 - 17**

We give thanks for the cup of blessing.

It is a sharing in the blood of Christ's death.

And the bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

There is one loaf of bread. And we are many people.

But we all share from that one loaf.

So, we are really one body.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

## **THE GOSPEL - John 6: 41-51**

The Jews began to complain about Jesus. They complained because he said, "I am the bread that comes down from heaven." The Jews said, "This is Jesus. We know his father and mother. He is only Joseph's son. How can he say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

But Jesus answered, "Stop complaining to each other. The Father is the One who sent me. No one can come to me unless the Father draws him to me. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'God will teach all the people.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the One who is from God. Only he has seen the Father. I tell you the truth. He who believes has eternal life. I am the bread that gives life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert. But still they died. Here is the bread that comes down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, they will never die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, they will live forever. This bread is my flesh. I will give my flesh so that the people in the world may have life."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

# YEAR B – Thanksgiving

## **FIRST READING - ACTS 10:34, 37 - 43**

Peter began to speak: "I really understand now that to God every person is the same. You know what has happened all over Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached to the people about baptism. You know about Jesus from Nazareth. God made him the Christ by giving him the Holy Spirit and power. You know how Jesus went everywhere doing good. He healed those who were ruled by the devil, for God was with Jesus. We saw all the things that Jesus did in Judea and in Jerusalem. But they killed him by nailing him to a cross. Yet, on the third day, God raised Jesus to life and caused him to be seen. But he was not seen by all the people. Only the witnesses that God had already chosen saw him, and we are those witnesses. We ate and drank with him after he was raised from death. He told us to preach to the people and to tell them that he is the one whom God chose to be the judge of the living and the dead. Everyone who believes in Jesus will be forgiven. God will forgive his sins through Jesus. All the prophets say this is true.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

## **PSALM 22 – The Lord's my Shepherd (used in GROW IN LOVE)**

## **SECOND READING – 1Corinthians 11: 23 – 26**

The teaching that I gave you is the same teaching that I received from the Lord. On the night when Jesus was handed over to be killed, he took bread and gave thanks for it. Then he broke the bread and said, "This is my body; it is for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way, after they ate, Jesus took the cup. He said, "This cup shows the new covenant from God to his people. This new covenant begins with the blood of my death. When you drink this, do it to remember me." Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show others about the Lord's death until he comes.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

## **THE GOSPEL - Mark 14:12-16. 22-26**

It was now the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This was a time when the Jews always sacrificed the Passover lambs. Jesus' disciples came to him. They said, "We will go and prepare everything for the Passover Feast. Where do you want to eat the feast?"

Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city. A man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. He will go into a house. Tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks that you show us the room where he and his followers can eat the Passover Feast.' The owner will show you a large room upstairs. This room is ready. Prepare the food for us there."

So, the disciples of Jesus left and went into the city. Everything happened as Jesus had said. They prepared the Passover Feast.

While they were eating, Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for it and broke it. Then he gave it to his disciples and said, "Take it. This bread is my body."

Then Jesus took a cup. He thanked God for it and gave it to his disciples. All the disciples drank from the cup.

Then Jesus said, "This is my blood which begins the new covenant that God makes with his people. This blood is poured out for many. I tell you the truth. I will not drink of this fruit of the vine again until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

# YEAR C – The Breaking of the Bread

## **FIRST READING - Acts 2: 43 - 47**

The apostles were doing many miracles and signs. And everyone felt great respect for God. All the believers stayed together. They shared everything. They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those people who needed it. The believers met together in the Temple every day. They all had the same purpose. They broke bread in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God, and all the people liked them. More and more people were being saved every day; the Lord was adding those people to the group of believers.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

## **PSALM 22 – The Lord’s my Shepherd (used in GROW IN LOVE)**

## **SECOND READING - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

The teaching that I gave you is the same teaching that I received from the Lord: On the night when Jesus was handed over to be killed, he took bread and gave thanks for it. Then he broke the bread and said, “This is my body; it is for you. Do this to remember me.” In the same way, after they ate, Jesus took the cup. He said, “This cup shows the new covenant from God to his people. This new covenant begins with the blood of my death. When you drink this, do it to remember me.”

THE WORD OF THE LORD

## **THE GOSPEL - Luke 24:13-16.28-35**

Two of Jesus' disciples were going to a town named Emmaus. It is about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself came near and began walking with them. They were not able to recognise Jesus.

They came near the town of Emmaus, and Jesus acted as if he did not plan to stop there. But they begged him, "Stay with us. It is late; it is almost night." So, he went in to stay with them.

Jesus sat down with them and took some bread. He gave thanks for the food and divided it. Then he gave it to them. And then, they were able to recognise Jesus. But when they saw who he was, he disappeared. They said to each other, "When Jesus talked to us on the road, it felt like a fire burning in us. It was exciting when he explained the true meaning of the Scriptures."

So, the two disciples got up at once and went back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven apostles and others gathered. They were saying, "The Lord really has risen from death! He showed himself to Simon."

Then the two disciples told what had happened on the road. They talked about how they recognised Jesus at the breaking of the bread.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

## SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS

### Presider:

As we gather around the table of the Lord we offer our prayers to God, knowing he always answers us.

### Prayer Leader:

For all of us gathered here today,  
that we will constantly offer God our praise and thanksgiving.

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For our parents and godparents,  
that they will continue to support us as we grow daily in faith and love.

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For our teachers, priests, and catechists,  
that they will always support us on our journey of faith.

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For every child receiving holy communion for the first time today,  
that we will grow daily in faith and love as we receive Jesus often.

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For all who are sick, at home or in hospital,  
that we will pray for each one and remember them at every Mass, asking God to heal each one. LET US PRAY TO THE LORD **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

For all who have died and are no longer with us,  
that we will one day be united together at the banquet of heaven.

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD **LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER**

### Presider:

Loving God, hear our prayer, as we gather together in your name, and help us to grow in love every day. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.