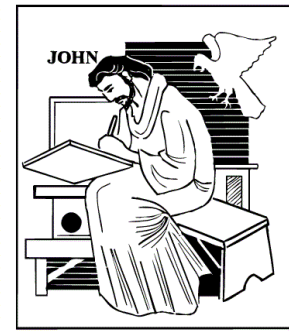
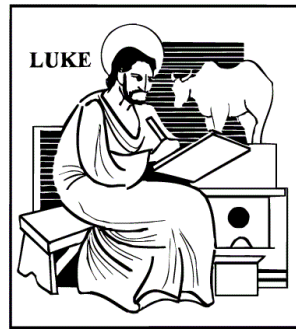
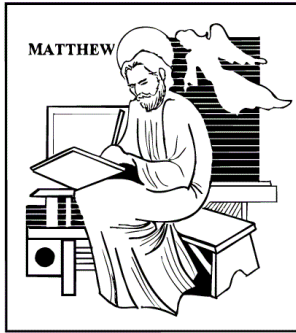


Breaking Open the Word



June 7, 2015 - The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Lectionary: 168 Gospel [Mk 14:12-16, 22-26](#)

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Spiritual Reflection: Augustine, perhaps the most influential Christian theologian of all time, puts it this way: Jesus didn't leave us the church and from the church we derive the Eucharist: rather, for him, Jesus left us the Eucharist and from the Eucharist we derive the Church. The church is in service of the Eucharist, not vice versa. Heaven will be a banquet table. The Eucharist is that table. -Ronald Rolheiser

Spiritual Questions

1. Why the Eucharist?
2. How can the Church be at the service of the Eucharist?
3. What books have you read about the Eucharist?
4. What did different saints think about the Eucharist?
5. How did the early Church so the importance of the Eucharist? How can we?