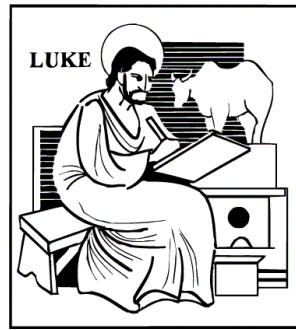
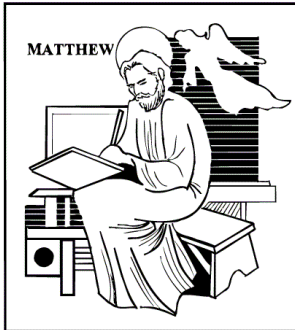


Breaking Open the Word



August 9, 2015 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 116 Gospel [Jn 6:41-51](#)

The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: *They shall all be taught by God.* Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

Spiritual Reflection: God knows that better than anyone. It's why Jesus gave us the Eucharist. In the Eucharist skin gets touched. The Eucharist isn't abstract, a theological instruction, a creed, a moral precept, a philosophy, or even just an intimate word. It's bodily, an embrace, a kiss, something shockingly physical, the real presence in a deeper way than even the old metaphysics imagined. - Fr. Ronald Rolheiser

Spiritual Questions

1. How are the objections to the Eucharist similar to the objections given about Jesus being the messiah at Nazareth?
2. Compare Manna with the Eucharist?
3. Think of three other names for Eucharist and compare them.
4. How is the Eucharist and Incarnation similar?
5. What is stranger God becoming man or God becoming bread or are both equally strange?