**Sunday after**

**May 2024**

**We receive the Body of Christ**

**First Holy Communion**

***Gathering Rite***

**Reader:** Today as we gather to celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist, we welcome especially the children who have made their First Holy Communion. Congratulations to the children and their families on such a special occasion.

 Each one of us is made in the image and likeness of God. Today, we will celebrate with joy the gift of God’s unconditional love for each one of us, in our own uniqueness. One of God’s gifts to us, is his presence to us in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

***Liturgy of the Word***

*Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word*

***Prayers of the Faithful***

**Priest:** God of love, today we gather in your name to praise you and thank you for all that you have given to us. With gratitude in our hearts for the love and compassion you bless us with in our lives, we know that we can always bring to you our concerns and prayers.

**Reader:** We pray for our Church leaders, especially Pope Francis and Bishop Ray and our Church community, that it may be a safe place of welcome, compassion and outreach for all. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader:** We thank God for giving his only Son Jesus to us, bringing us closer to God and teaching us how to live a life of love and service to others. Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** We pray especially today for the children who have received the sacrament of First Holy Communion this year, that they may come to know Jesus as a forever friend and follow in his footsteps, experiencing the fullness of life. Lord hear us.

**Reader:** We pray for peace in our world, our communities, homes and families, that

we may live as Jesus has taught us to, with love, compassion, respect and

forgiveness. Lord hear us.

**Reader:** Lord we think of our loved ones who have died. We remember especially…

 **Lord hear us**.

**Priest:** God of love,

encourage us to see your friendship present in our daily lives,

as we go through the week ahead.

May we share this joy with everyone we meet.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

**Reader:** Christ has no body now but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes through which

he looks compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

yours are the eyes, you are his body

Christ has no body now but yours

No hands, no feet, on earth but yours

Yours are the eyes

with which he looks compassion on this world

Christ has no body now on earth, but yours’.

* St. Teresa of Ávila

**Closing Song:**  Eat this bread (Grow in Love pg. 191)