

# **Eucharistic Homily**

Ninth Lord's Day of Epiphany  
March 3, 2019

It didn't take long for the children of Israel to find out that life after the Exodus would be filled with trials and hardships and lots of waiting. Passing through the waters of the Red Sea was only the first step in a long, difficult journey. But they also found that God was with them every step of the way. They found out that the God who saved them was not about to abandon them. Their rescuer and redeemer also showed Himself to be their protector and provider. As long as the manna kept falling, they knew that God had not forgotten them.

In many ways, the same is true for us. Passing through the waters of baptism is our inclusion into the new and greater Exodus that Jesus has accomplished. But baptism is only the first step in a life of sacrifice, trials, and cross-bearing. But the God who saved us has promised not to abandon us. Our rescuer and redeemer is also our protector and provider. Each week at the Lord's Table, our heavenly Father sustains us with the true manna—the body and blood of Jesus—as a sure sign that God has not forgotten us. At this Table, the Lord promises us: My grace has brought you safe this far, and my grace will lead you home.

If you've been baptized into Christ and are seeking to live faithfully and obediently for Him, you are invited to partake of this feast that our gracious God has prepared for us. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

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