

What do the following have in common?

- 1) Peek-a-boo: Now you see me; now you don't.
- 2) Hide & seek: I'm around. Can you find me?
- 3) Halloween: Can you tell who I am....even though I may not look like me?

Believe it or not, all 3 serve as preparatory experiences for faith.

In today's 1st Reading Elijah experiences God in a quiet, whispering sound. At this time in history, God was thought to be present only in mighty wonders: strong & heavy winds....fire....

earthquakes. With Elijah God is experienced in a tiny sound.

For us in 2011 we may experience God in the beauty of a butterfly, in flowers or in a sunrise or sunset. We might see a bird and think of God's presence. All of creation is a manifestation of God.

Like water for a fish and like air for us, God's presence is everywhere. Do we daily notice the Divine among us? God in our midst? God with us?

One of the reasons we say "grace" before meals is the recognition that God provides for us in such an ordinary way. We say morning and evening prayers because we realize God is blessing us with the gift of time and the gift of life. God is with us throughout our day whether we are awake or asleep.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is with the Apostles. They think he is a ghost. It's not Peek-a-boo or Hide and Seek or Halloween. It is the Lord Jesus in His resurrected state.

The Good News for us is: God is with us 24/7....always. God is with us in the storms of our lives: in sickness, when injured, during a car or work accident, in the break-up of a relationship, with the loss of a job.

God is with us....always in the ordinary times of our day: when walking, working in the yard or garden, doing errands, having a picnic, riding a bicycle, swimming, showering or shaving.

Long ago we were being prepared to experience God's daily presence. We were being formed when we played Peek-a-boo, Hide and Seek, and celebrated Halloween. The difference now is: it isn't a game....it is our LIFE.

My sisters and brothers: This week take time to be aware and awake to God's presence.