



Christ in the Gospels of the Liturgical Year: Raymond E. Brown, SS (1928-1998): Expanded Edition with Essays by John R. Donahue, SJ, and Ronald D. Witherup, SS

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2009 Catholic Press Association Award Winner!

A decade after the untimely death of renowned Scripture scholar Father Raymond E. Brown, SS, he continues to inspire and inform scholars and preachers, students and pastoral ministers, lay and ordained. It was only days after Father Brown's death that his final book was published by Liturgical Press. That book, *Christ in the Gospels of the Ordinary Sundays*, completed his six-volume series on preaching the Scriptures, a series that had begun in the mid-1970s with the publication of his popular *An Adult Christ at Christmas*. Those six volumes are collected here in one convenient commemorative edition to mark the tenth anniversary of Brown's death. Brown's work is left largely untouched, and readers will find that his wisdom is lasting. Yet Brown, being a scholar's scholar, would recognize the need for some enhancement in a work being republished some thirty years after the first volume appeared. Appropriately, then, this edition contains introductory essays by Brown's colleagues and friends John R. Donahue, SJ, and Ronald D. Witherup, SS, as well as useful indexes and a bibliography of resources for preaching the word of God in the context of the lectionary.

As Witherup notes in his preface, Brown had the rare capacity to simplify complex biblical studies in a manner that did not 'dumb down' the material but allowed it to be understood by a wide audience. . . . He did this in a fashion that was both inspiring and educational. That very broad audience 'those who grew up with Brown, so to speak, as well as a whole new generation of readers and preachers of the word 'will find this book to be a source of inspiration and knowledge that they will turn to again and again.

Raymond E. Brown, S.S., (1928 -1998) was the Auburn Distinguished Professor of Biblical Studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He was author of some forty books on the Bible and past president of three of the most important biblical societies in the world. By appointment of two popes (Pal VI in 1972, John Paul II in 1996) Brown was a member of the Roman Pontifical Biblical Commission. Time magazine called him probably the premier Catholic

Scripture scholar of the U.S.

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Editorial Review

Review

The individual chapters are very helpful if read during the appropriate liturgical season. The volume is highly recommended for home purchase as well as for parish, college, and religious house libraries.

Catholic Library World

My only wish is that the book had been issued in hardcover to better withstand the repeated use it will surely be put to for teaching and preaching.

Trinity Seminary Review

Raymond Brown speaks with a monumental assurance, the fruit not merely of his knowledge of the texts but also of his life of faith. His book contains many insights of startling simplicity into the original meaning of those texts, as well as into the church's situation today. Many who think that they know the scriptures well will find themselves enriched by observations from this eminent, and much-lamented, scholar that will not have occurred to them. There is a profound wisdom here that comes from decades of living in and with the text of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures.

The Way

This book takes time! The text demands time not for conceptual understanding. No, the text deserves time to be experienced as a collection of scholarly meditations on the person of Christ in the Sunday proclamation. One needs to 'ponder these things in the heart.' Additionally, both the scholar and the preacher will benefit from reading the detailed notations. They do not distract from meditation.

Catholic Books Review

This book provides a wonderful introduction to Gospel exegesis for laity and is an invaluable tool for those whose task it is to break open the Word of God Sunday after Sunday to sometimes very diverse audiences.

Prairie Messenger

This is indeed a fitting tribute to the enduring contribution of a great Catholic biblical scholar and teacher.

The Bible Today

An ultimate compendium of Brown's work through the years.

Midwest Book Review

Fr. Raymond Brown's Christ in the Gospels of the Liturgical Year fills a significant void in Catholic publishing: a book that integrates study, spirituality, and applications in an accessible manner. Its issuance as

a handy compendium is particularly timely given the Synod on Scripture and the growing prominence of lectio divina. Christ in the Gospels of the Liturgical Year makes an excellent companion to the liturgy of the hours or daily and Sunday missals. This compelling title is enjoyable as well as informative and inspiring, thereby keeping the pages turning. A fitting testimony to the enduring nature of Fr. Brown's work.
Karl A. Schultz, National speaker and author of eleven books

About the Author

Ronald D. Witherup, PSS, is superior general of the Sulpicians, an order of diocesan priests dedicated to initial and ongoing formation of priests. He holds a doctorate in biblical studies and is the author of numerous books and articles on Scripture, including *The Word of God at Vatican II: Exploring Dei Verbum*, *Gold Tested in Fire: A New Pentecost for the Catholic Priesthood*, and *Biblical Fundamentalism, What Every Catholic Should Know*, published by Liturgical Press. He is also a contributor to *Give Us This Day*, published by Liturgical Press.

Users Review

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Mary Marshall:

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