

March 29, 2010

Scripture Reading: Luke 22:1-20

Food is such an important part of life. We need nourishment for our bodies and cannot survive long without the sustenance provided by eating. Not much time passes before we start thinking about our next meal. Days and weeks are often structured around eating plans.

But the physical nourishment from a meal is only part of its importance. Just as food nourishes our bodies, the fellowship we share around the table nourishes our souls.

Think about the most important relationships in your life. How many of these relationships began with a meal? How many of your important relationships have been formed and nurtured around a table?

In the Gospels, we discover that Jesus spent a lot of time at meals with the people he encountered. He himself says that he was called, "a glutton and a drunkard." (Luke 7:34) Not only did he spend time at the table with friends, he described the Kingdom of God as being like an extravagant banquet feast. He modeled the heavenly banquet by welcoming and eating with all kinds of people: "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." (Luke 15:2)

This is never more evident than at the Last Supper. In his final earthly meal, he dines with the very people who betray, deny, and abandon him. He instructs them to remember him as they eat together, and from that day, Jesus' disciples have gathered around tables to be nourished and fed.

This week, the church will remember and share Jesus' final meal, but we need not limit our fellowship with God to worship services where the Sacrament is served. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is with us always, waiting and ready to nourish our souls in fellowship with him, as the food we eat nourishes our bodies.

Acknowledge the living Jesus Christ at every meal you eat this week.