

“Christ Makes Himself Known in the Breaking of the Bread”

Luke 24:13-35

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia

The meal at Emmaus is the climax of Luke’s Gospel, and it is the pivotal hinge connecting his Gospel to his account of the Acts of the Apostles. Luke’s Gospel is addressed to a man named Theophilus. It is Luke’s intention to reveal Christ to him through the written Word. The Book of Acts also begins with an address to Theophilus specifically stating that Christ’s work in the world is on-going. He continues to be revealed. He continues to act and to teach.

The ministry of Christ’s Church is an extension of His earthly ministry. And as you read the entirety of the Gospel of Luke and of the Acts of the Apostles, it becomes more and more clear that our Lord is not only revealed in the written Word, but Christ is revealed in the breaking of bread. That is what connects Christ’s Church to Easter.

The salvation story is framed within the context of meals.

Adam and Eve brought about the Fall of mankind by eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. When the Israelites are freed from Egypt, it is through the blood of the lamb painted on their doors, but God instructs them to have a meal as the angel of death passes over their homes.

When God meets with Moses and the 70 elders of Israel on Mt. Sinai to establish the first covenant, Moses records, "They saw God and they ate and they drank."

When Christ establishes His new and better covenant, it is at the celebration of the Passover meal. He brings a new reality to the unleavened bread and cups of wine which were passed. And after the resurrection, Jesus appears to His disciples on a number of occasions and eats with them -- proving He is no ghost.

But on that first Easter Sunday, on the first day of the new week Creation has been restored and Christ is made known in the breaking of the bread. We gather here this evening/morning and see and hear and taste the ministry of Christ which is on-going. He is revealed to us in His Word, and He is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

The disciples at Emmaus marveled at how their hearts burned within them as Jesus spoke of Moses and the Prophets and interpreted what they said about the Christ. The Word of God is

powerful in and of itself. It is a refiner's fire. It changes us. It fills us. Peter says in our Epistle lesson that God's Word is imperishable, living, and abiding. "The word of the Lord remains forever." And God has revealed Himself and He speaks to us through that living and abiding Word.

As is said so eloquently in the letter to the Hebrews, "In many and various ways God spoke to the people of old through the prophets", but when He really wanted to get their attention, or when He really had a fundamental change in store for His people, there was a meal.

Hebrews goes on to say, "But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son." It is still true that when God really wants to get our attention, or when He really has a fundamental change in store for His people, there is a meal. We gather for a meal each week because a fundamental change has taken place in our lives. Christ has established a new covenant in His blood which was shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. But this is not a one-time event. The Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven is often referred to as "The On-going Feast."

Here at the Lord's Table, we get a fore-taste of that Feast to come. We get a little glimpse of heaven on earth. We enter into this sacramental union with Christ our Lord, and He tangibly enters

our bodies just as spiritually He is always with us.

The joy of Easter and the reality of eternity have begun for us and come to us as our crucified and risen Lord is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Amen.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.