

## Sermon October 6, 2024

### John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

### Grace

Making bread with my mom.

We connect special days with food— Christmas cookies, Easter brunches, birthday cakes, Thanksgiving tables overflowing with abundance. The wonderful smells and the memories are so connected in our minds, taking us back to our favorite places. Like making bread with my mother.

Today we are invited to a special meal and we can't wait to hear Jesus call out to us: "It's time to eat! Come to the table." This morning, Jesus has set the table and is not just inviting us, but is inviting our neighbors far and wide to come to the table...

At the table we receive exactly what we need...

And the need is great, my beloved! Like JobBombs rain down in the Middle East and pagers explode in the marketplace in Lebanon. Ukrainians continue to defend their borders. And these are not the only places that crave peace: wars and conflict rage in places from Sudan to Myanmar. And mass shootings in America have become so normalized that we don't hear

about most of the incidents. The cries for peace call out in multiple languages.

As the election rapidly approaches, I am reminded again how separated we have become from one another. We live in a time when 50% of our country fundamentally disagree about who we are, where we are going. People are divided and angry, looking at the things that separate us and make us different. It's becoming harder and harder to hear one another, to enter into one another's stories.

But today, we remember what connects us

Soon we will gather around the table

Once we have eaten our fill... nourished body and soul, Jesus reminds us that there is more that we need to do.

"Feed my Sheep" "Follow me"

After we are finished here, you are invited to join the Crossroads team as we continue to envision and discern who we are and why God has called us to this place. Each person will have an opportunity to share what they dream of for this congregation, our community and our world. And we will gather to discover this together over a lovely meal.

Food connects us. Jesus did much of his ministry over a shared meal. In these days, the things that connect us are vital. So let us follow the one who calls us. Let us feed and care for the world-wide flock. Let us remember who we are.

Amen

## **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

### **Invitation to the Table**

Light candles!

**Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters; everyone who is hungry, come to the table!**

**\*Hymn of Preparation "Just As I Am" (#260 LC)**

## Preparing the Meal

One: First, God created one person.

**All: But it was not right for that one person to be alone.**

One: That person had God, but needed an equal, so God made animals.

**All: How about a cow...**

One: ... a dog

**All: ... a tiger**

One: ... an elephant

**All: ... a snake**

One: But it still wasn't enough, so God made another person, an equal, someone to share with, and talk with. God created relationship. God created communion.

**All: This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!**

One: And then God took it one step further. God looked at the many people living in relationship with one another and decided to join the community! God came to be with us as one of us, and his human family called him Jesus.

**All: This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!**

One: And one night, when Jesus sat with his community, he took bread, and broke it, and blessed it, saying, "This is my body."

Then he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood."

**All: This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!**

One: Come, Holy Spirit, and make us one body of Christ.

**All: This at last is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!**

One: Bone of our bone; flesh of our flesh: one with each other and all humanity: the Body of Christ. We invite you to come forward and share in

the breads and fruit that is gathered at the table. Feel free to share with the person next to you, and saying to one another,

**All: "Bone of our bone; Flesh of our flesh: The Body of Christ!"**

One: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table has been prepared for you!

### **Sharing the Meal**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Benediction**

May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Go in peace, my Beloved. Amen