



# PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

June 2022

## *Our Daily Bread*

The Easter season is a time of formation in discipleship. The risen Lord is showing us that he is going to present...but not the way he used to be...walking, talking, eating...with the disciples. He is weening them from physical experience, and forming them for a faith-walk. He presents the intimate image of himself as Shepherd. He also describes how he will feed that constant new faithful presence. He tells the disciples that they must daily eat him. They must eat his flesh and drink his blood. At first they are shocked at this language. But soon they begin to understand a little of the mystery of how this has to do with the way they relate to one another.

The word for flesh is sarx. It means more than body, which is the word soma. It means humanness with all its limitations. But he has a risen, transformed humanness...He is no longer "limited." So, what could he possibly mean? Ah...he is the risen head, but his Body, which we are, is still struggling in time/space, with all its "limits." Could he mean that our "daily bread" is the total Christ...that each time we receive him sacramentally we also welcome each other? Could he mean that daily we must 'eat' one another with all those limitations, faults, and irritations? Even more amazing, could he mean that this type of 'communion' is going on all over the world...on the evening news, as compassion shows up in the most unexpected places? Do we know what we are asking for, when we pray "Give us this day, our daily bread...?"

*Now they see you, now they don't.  
What is this game you're playing?  
Are you 'going to the Father?'  
or will you be 'with us until the end of the age?'  
Or maybe the answer is, 'Yes!'  
You really have never 'left' have you.  
You have found a way to stay with us  
even as you return to your Father.  
And you have found a way to feed our love quotient day by day  
Each time we feed on you...  
Because you bring them all, don't you.  
All my family, my friends, and yes, those I consider enemies.  
They are not all to my 'taste.' They irritate me.  
Is it really 'all or nothing' with you?  
Can't have the Head without the Body?  
Be patient with me...  
I'm still learning...  
What 'give us this day our daily bread' might really mean.*



*Thank you to Associate Doug Gundlach for the June Reflections.*

**June 5, 2022 – Pentecost | John 20:19-23**

*“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit...”*

In a matter of a couple sentences John the Evangelist captures the entrance of the Holy Spirit into the Apostles directly from Jesus on Easter night. This is described without the drama of the tongues of flame at Pentecost. It came simply with a breath. Yet, despite being quiet, invisible, and gentle, it was the breath of life. Just as God the Father breathed upon Adam to give him life at the dawn of time, so now Jesus gives new life in the Spirit to his followers. How has the breath of new life entered me in these last 50 days of celebrating the Resurrection? How might I be called to live differently with only the quiet guidance of the Holy Spirit of God?

**June 12, 2022 – The Most Holy Trinity | John 16:12-15**

*“I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.”*

Jesus speaks to his Apostles at the Last Supper about what is to come. While he had frequently spoken of his relationship to his Father, here was their primary introduction to the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity. We consider the Trinity a great mystery. Yet, its very existence indicates God's desire for us to understand and to participate in the divine. Jesus could not tell his Apostles all that they would need to know to live their lives in such a way that His Father's kingdom would come and will be done on earth. Only by leaving bodily human life could he send the omnipresent Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to accompany the Twelve - to accompany each of us - every minute of every day. How can I better acknowledge and then follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

**June 19, 2022 – The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ | Luke 9:11b-17**

*“Give them some food yourselves.”*

Jesus rebuffed his Apostles' recommendation to dismiss the crowd to find their own evening meals. Jesus calls upon his Twelve to do their part. Centuries later, St. Augustine summarized this lesson for Christians to pray as though everything depended on God while working as though it all depended on you. While we may focus on our shortcomings and limitations when we focus on what we see, looking with eyes of faith enables us to see what is possible and what is within our potential. When have I been reluctant to act only to marvel later at how God took my humble efforts and brought them to fruition?

**June 26, 2022 – 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Luke 9:51-62**

*“[Jesus] resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem.”*

Much of Luke's Gospel describes Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. He was focused on his goal, the salvation of the world through his passion, death, and resurrection. He encountered people to be healed, crowds to evangelize, and disciples to teach. Yet, he did all this on the journey. He kept his focus on Jerusalem, his destiny.

We have heaven as our destiny. This is the return home that God intends for each of us, if only we accept our invitations. How might I live as though I am on a human journey back to my spiritual home? How might this put things in perspective?