

Well, last week was World Communion Sunday, which used to be known as World Wide Communion Sunday. For a lot of our younger folks, that probably doesn't mean much, but if you are a little older and were raised in the Lutheran Church (or any of a number of other Protestant denominations), that first Sunday in October was important because, it was one of the few times in the year that we celebrated Holy Communion. (The date was established right after WWII as a sign of Christian unity). Growing up, our home church had communion 4 times a year, whether we needed it or not. When we got to Trenton 40 years ago, it was the same old pattern. And do you remember why we didn't have it more often? It was too Catholic (God forbid). Or the ever popular-*it would become too common and lose its meaning*. And I remember when we arrived here, as we made the change from our infrequent pattern to a weekly celebration, there were more than a few folks who were very, very unhappy with me.

What was neat though, was that after we had finally made the transition to our weekly observance, one of our folks, who had been extremely outspoken and opposed to that change, visited family in another part of the country. And they came back livid-they could not find a Lutheran liturgy with the Eucharist. They told me-they missed it. Isn't that great? As we moved to weekly celebration, we reclaimed our Reformation heritage and our Christian roots; and just like you can't tell someone too many times that you love them, so too we discovered that the frequency of the meal was a gift that made it all the more special.

My dear father in law used to tease me, "Boy, you never miss a meal." I thought that's a good image for us this morning as we read today's lessons. They come as a reminder that God nourishes the Family with all that we need for the faith journey. Like a parent, feeding their kids. There's great imagery in our first lesson that talks about God wiping our tears and feeding us with the best things. Yet our Gospel tells us of a feast that is offered and the people ignore it. Why would they want to miss a meal? Perhaps because they fill themselves with junk food. Another good image.

As we move toward the end of the church year, we are reminded today of that great feast that God has waiting for each of us. And along the way-this meal for the Family to share. A meal that nourishes faith; a meal that informs our ministry. Because there is no way we can be at the feast and at the same time allow our sisters and brothers to exist in famine. And that is why this servant community will not abide the policies or the greed or the selfishness or the political expediency that let's God's children go hungry. Because of Christ's Good Friday sacrifice and our Easter hope, "*We have no mission but to serve, in full obedience to our Lord.*" (sermon hymn 729...The Church of Christ in Every Age.)"