

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, MARCH 27



The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

— 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

With all the ritual and symbolism of the Eucharist it is easy to forget that the Last Supper was, at its simplest, a meal Jesus shared with his closest friends. Though we usually don’t liken it to the meal we have at Sunday dinner, the Last Supper was still supper. It is a meal that the earliest Christians celebrated—sharing food with one another in commemoration of Jesus—and in which we participate today.

What does it mean to think not of the divine Jesus who instructs us to “eat his body” and “drink his blood,” but of a human Jesus who ate with people who loved him and people who would betray him, who fed crowds of strangers, and who dined with tax collectors and prostitutes? Our God is a God who knows the enjoyment of food, who savors the company of friend and stranger amidst a good meal, who accepts the hospitality of the outcast and the reviled, and who also fasted in the desert and preached the Good News from town to town without the certainty of his next meal. Jesus’ humanity reveals a humanity that we can all strive for, a humanity that leads us into greater humility, deeper compassion and committed service.

— Brin Bon