

Eucharistic Homily

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 12, 2018

The death and resurrection of Jesus has forever changed the world. Nothing can ever be the same again. The church embodies a new way of life—a new, heavenly culture—that disrupts and overturns all other fleshly cultures. And one of the most important ways the church transforms culture is through food. It's no secret that Christians love to eat—maybe a little too much at times. But it's no accident that food and faith are so closely intertwined. One of the most profound changes that Jesus has brought about is where and what we're allowed to eat.

Under the Old Covenant, very few people were allowed to eat in God's presence. Holy foods were reserved only for holy people. God's people were set apart from the rest of the nations by the distinctions between clean and unclean animals. Wine was required as a drink offering at various festivals, but priests were prohibited from drinking wine or strong drink on the job. Nobody could drink wine in God's presence.

But all that has changed. Jesus has set us free from the elements of the world. He has broken down the barriers of the Old Covenant. In the New Covenant we are instructed to eat holy food. We are instructed to drink wine in God's presence! We are called to feast at God's Table—and our family tables—with all who are baptized into the body of Christ, regardless of man-made status or distinction. This is one very important way the gospel transforms us and transforms the world.

If you've been baptized into Christ and are seeking to live faithfully and obediently for Him, you are invited to partake of this feast that Jesus has prepared for us. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

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