

Eucharistic Homily

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

6/24/18

The word for thanksgiving in the New Testament is the Greek word “eucharist”, which has been used to describe the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper since the earliest days of the church. Jesus gave thanks twice during the Last Supper—once for the bread and once for the wine, and so thanksgiving is the primary theme of this New Covenant feast. The Lord’s Supper—the Eucharist—is the ultimate Thanksgiving Dinner.

When we celebrate the Lord’s Supper in faith with thanksgiving each and every week, this Thanksgiving Dinner turns us into the kind of people whose lives are marked by gratitude and humility. Celebrating the gospel with joy and thanksgiving every week cultivates in us a spirit of joy and thanksgiving. Eucharistic worship produces Eucharistic living.

The fact that the Spirit imparts to us all the benefits of Christ’s body and blood through ordinary bread and wine teaches us to look for and recognize God’s grace in the ordinary occurrences of everyday life. Some people think we shouldn’t celebrate the Lord’s Supper every week because they think it could turn something very special into something very ordinary. But I think the exact opposite is true: celebrating the Eucharist every week helps us to see how God turns things that are very ordinary into things are overflowing with His grace.

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.

Pastor Jimmy Gill

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