

Eucharistic Homily

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
7/29/18

There are many reasons for celebrating the Lord's Supper each and every week, but here's one of the most important: We come to the Table to be reminded of who we are.

Every Lord's Day, God calls us into His presence, He cleanses us of our sins, He reaffirms His love for us, and He speaks His life-giving word to us. And every Lord's Day, God welcomes us to the family Table to remind us of the identity bestowed upon us in baptism: you are a beloved child of God. God loves you and delights in you. The Lord has claimed you as His own and sealed you with His Spirit. You aren't who you used to be. You are not defined by your sins and struggles or by the wounds you carry. You are in Christ and a member of Christ's glorified body.

This good news of the gospel that is offered to us in the bread and wine each week is the foundation and fountainhead for all Christian service and sacrifice, because you can't give what you don't have. You can't love others selflessly unless you have been filled up with God's love. If you are not satisfied with and saturated in God's love, you will have no desire to serve others and nothing to give them. On the other hand, if your identity and your sense of worth depend upon what other people think of you, then your attempts at service will actually be self-serving.

But when we know and embrace the overwhelming love of God, we can love others selflessly. When we allow God's word to define us, the abundance of God's grace toward us overflows from us into the lives of others. So, partake of God's gifts and be reminded of you who really are. Receive the love and favor of God so that you can share God's love and favor with others.

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
Christ Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Live Oak, FL
www.crpcliveoak.org