

# **Eucharistic Homily**

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 9, 2018

The purpose of letting God's word dwell in us richly is so that we would sing to edify one another and praise God with thanksgiving in our hearts. In fact, the whole point of all the means of grace is that we would become people who receive God's gifts by faith and then overflow with thankfulness to God. Our lives, our speech, our homes, and our relationships with one another are to be marked by gratitude. Thankfulness is to be at the heart of who we are.

The Lord's Supper—the Eucharist—is one of the primary ways that God fills our hearts with thanksgiving. Eucharist, after all, means “thanksgiving”. Every part of the liturgy involves God blessing us in some way and our response of praise and thanksgiving, but the Lord's Supper is super concentrated with gratitude. When God calls us to feast at His Table, we give thanks not once, not twice, but three times.

So as we taste and see that the Lord is good, give thanks to God. Give thanks that Christ's body was broken for you. Give thanks that you have been incorporated into the Body of Christ, the Church. Give thanks for the blood of Christ that was shed for the forgiveness of your sins. Give thanks that the cup of Christ's suffering is also the cup of His kingly glory. Give thanks that the life of Christ is being formed in you and that one day we will behold our Savior in glory and feast with Him in the fullness of His kingdom.

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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