

Eucharistic Homily

Second Lord's Day of Easter

April 28, 2019

When the Pharisees complained that Jesus feasted with tax collectors and sinners, Jesus replied that He had come as the Great Physician to heal the sick. After all, those who are well don't need a doctor. What seems like common sense was actually a subtle indictment against the arrogant Pharisees. They thought they were well, and so refused to see Doctor Jesus and receive His healing. Only those who know they are sick are likely to see a doctor and actually get help. Those who refuse to admit their illness have cut themselves off from the cure.

Sometimes we Christians forget that the church—and this Table—are for those who know that they are sick and hungry. Sometimes we make the mistake of thinking that the Lord's Supper is only for the spiritual Christians who have it all together. But it's simply not so. No one earns their way to this Table, because the blessings of Christ's body and blood are a free gift of our loving Savior. The only requirement for Communion is humble willingness to receive God's and gratitude for the gifts bestowed here. Blessed are the hungry, for they shall be filled.

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 our gracious God has prepared for us. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

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The old saying is that there's no such thing as free lunch, and that's exactly right. Everything has a price. Everything costs somebody something. If you ever get a free lunch, it's because you've already prepaid for it somehow or because someone else has picked up your tab.

That's the case with the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is free for us, but it was purchased by the infinitely precious blood of our Savior. The gracious gifts of God imparted to us at the Lord's Table are provided free of charge because Jesus has paid the debt we owed and reckoned all of His infinite assets to our account. We don't come to this Table because we think we've earned it. We come knowing that our way has been fully paid. The only thing required for admission to this feast is a heart of humble gratitude.