

Eucharistic Homily

*Sixteenth Lord's Day after Pentecost
September 12, 2021*

Hebrews 13 says that we should be content precisely because God has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. There's only one small problem: It very often seems like God isn't anywhere near us.

For this reason, Hebrews 13 describes the many unexpected ways that God is present with us.

- Jesus is present in His Body, the Church (other Christians).
- Jesus is present to us through His official representatives (church officers).
- Jesus is present in our trials and persecutions.
- Jesus is present to us when we gather to worship God the Father.
- And last but not least, Jesus is present in the word and sacraments.

Paul says, "We have an altar from which those who serve the tent (Temple) have no right to eat." Paul calls this Table an altar, because an altar in the Bible is a place of communion. This altar is the primary place where God meets with and fellowships with His people. This altar is the source of joy and blessing that spills over into every other aspect of life.

So, this is your Presbyterian "altar call": Come to the Table of the Lord to receive the grace and blessing and peace of the crucified and risen Jesus. You will only be able to enjoy all of God's other gifts if you find your greatest joy and delight in this gift.

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 provided for us. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

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