



The Shepherd's Voice

August 14, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

“Feeding On Jesus”

“As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on Me, he also will live because of Me.” John 6: 57 (Gospel for this Sunday—John 6: 53-59)

The lectionary we use for Sundays that continues in course has left one verse out that is quite important. Verse 52 says, “The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’” I suppose it was left out to keep us from more theological argument over literalness just as the Jews were arguing. However, this sets the stage for why Jesus is continuing to proclaim eternal life through His gift of His life to us. His life willingly laid down for us and taken up again in physical resurrection and ascension gives the hope all Christians have of our resurrection to new life in the kingdom of heaven. This was a physical reality. Jesus’ words, ‘unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you’ are powerful reality busters for the Jews and in turn for us as well. Truly, this would have been hard to hear and more so to believe. But, Jesus proves His life of grace and miracle in His resurrection which gives us the new reality of His life in ours. We receive His Body and Blood in sacramental union with Him, and He transfers the miraculous grace into hope-filled food that fills us and completes our physical and spiritual needs. If you ever really need hope, you really need to feed on Jesus!

The act of feeding on Jesus is a continuous one that speaks to our regular infusion with the grace that comes from Holy Communion. As He lived for the Father’s sake, so also He lives to feed us with His Life. We live with that assurance of His life in ours. We become more and more like Him in the way we live our lives. We are His then forever. Each time I receive of the sacred Body and Blood of

Christ I sense that I am becoming more of Him and less of the ‘me’ I have been. He is transferring the miracle of His life into ours. Doesn’t that want to make you come to Holy Communion every Sunday? Or even more often?

Yes, it is vital to the health of our lives to receive Holy Communion each and every time we have it offered to us. ‘Feeding on His flesh and drinking His blood’ produces life within us. It is His real Presence. No, I’m not chewing His real flesh or drinking His actual blood, but, in a spiritual sense I am. It is His very Life entering mine. It’s His real and true Life Presence. Something happens to my spirit when His Spirit leaps off the bread and wine that courses through my blood to touch me at the deepest levels of my humanity and being. I know that God is entering into all of me that He created. I know God is fully alive within me. I know that God is in control. I have real hope then.

The intimacy of this divine act that Jesus initiated is both amazingly masterful and astoundingly majestic. It is mystical union along with physical reality. It is earthy and yet heavenly. I need food daily. I need Jesus moment by moment. Thus, we engage in the moment by moment feeding of His life carried from Eucharist to Eucharist, the continual reminder of His pledge to us...”Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever!”

In the service on any given Sunday here at Grace, this is what all other aspects of liturgy lead up to and culminate in, the miracle of Jesus transferring His Life into ours! Yes, we do the same thing week after week, but, indeed, this is the greatest gift He has given to His Church. We partake in His Life through this gift of His to ‘feed us’ each week. This is the true food, and along with His Word spoken from Scripture and elaborated on in the preaching, we have a ‘dining experience’ like no other! Thus, I look forward every Sunday to being ‘fed’ by

Jesus. He is the only food I desire. He is the food of life!

I'm daily hoping that you will come and feed on Jesus this Sunday. I remain His servant to proclaim this good news that in Jesus' Life, our eternal food, we receive more and more the life we were meant to

live. His food, His Life, in us is heaven on earth with Him. There is just no other better way...than to feed on Jesus!

With Jesus' love,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

August 19, 2012	BCP-Proper 15	8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Proverbs 9:1-6	Doug Hall	Stephen Painter
Psalm Reader	Psalm 147	Choir	Cline Handy
Second Reader	Ephesians 5:15-20	Robbin Gates	Ann Fox
Intercessor		Acolyte	Fiona Kilby
Lay Euch. Ministers		Kay & Alfred Focke	Frances Slaughter, Petey Seibold
Acolytes		Rob Ackerman	Fiona K (C); Damon W (T1); Dasiahmarie V (T2)
Welcomers		Jane Rost	Jane Rost, Margaret Olson, Jeanne Shannon
Ushers		Jackie Lansing, Chris Corey	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Ken Putnam, Ray Seibold
Vestry Person of Day			Jackie Lansing
Healing Ministers		Jane Rost, Robbin Gates	Chris Kilby, Sarah Fuller, Ann & JR Fox
Counters			Cline Handy & Michael Murphy

Did you know?

There's a new service of Evening Prayer and Healing on Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Stop by on your way home from work and decompress for the weekend.

Acolyte Training
Right after the second service on
Sunday, August 19th

You can still go to the beach if you go to the training

August 19th at 9:30 a.m. All Parish Meeting

At the Annual Meeting in January, your Vestry promised to review our faith budget at mid-year. This Sunday is the day when they will present their findings and answer your questions. The financial health of this church should be of concern to every one of us. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

Sunday, August 19th

**Beach Day at Del Mar Beach on Camp Pendleton from 1-3 p.m.
Just show your driver's license at the gate.**

Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m. – Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. – All Parish Meeting
10:15 a.m. – Family Service with
Worship Team
1-3 pm-Beach Day at Del Mar
Beach on Camp Pendleton

Sunday, August 19th
Special
All Parish Meeting
at 9:30 a.m.

Readings for Sunday

Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm 147
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:53-59

We are using the English Standard
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary
from the Book of Common Prayer (Year B)

This Week at Grace –August 14-August 21

Tues. August 14

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study -Revelation
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis
6-8 p.m. Scentsy Candle fund raiser party

Wed August 15

9:30 a.m. No Staff Meeting
3:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Jan Mehl
6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Thurs. August 16

7:00 a.m. – Bible Study
8:00 a.m. No Clergy Meeting
10-Noon Play Group
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist – Oasis

Fri. August 17

Fr. Joe's Day Off
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Healing

Sat. August 18

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
9-3 Men's Cursillo Team Meeting

Sun. August 19

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service
9:30 a.m. **Important All Parish Meeting**
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Worship Team
12:00 p.m. Acolyte Training
1:00 p.m. Beach Day

Mon. August 20

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. August 21

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays
11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of the Book of Revelation. Everyone is welcome.
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

Sunday Refreshments Between Services

We have a group of faithful volunteers who provide the refreshments each Sunday on a rotating basis. We need more people to offer to help as some of these people are getting tired. Please call the church office if you would be willing to provide some of the Sunday refreshments on a once-a-month basis.

Save the date!

- Aug. 14 Scentsy Candle Party/Fundraiser for Family Friendly Ministry
- Aug. 18 9-3 Men's Cursillo Team meeting
- Aug. 19 Congregational Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- Aug. 19 Beach Day
at Del Mar Beach, Camp Pendleton
- Sept. 15 Diocesan Convention
- Sept. 19 Vestry meeting
- Sept. 20-23 Men's Cursillo
- Sept. 23 Benefit Concert at Grace for CHC
- Sept. 27-30 Women's Cursillo
- Oct. 3 Healing Prayer
- Oct. 6 Blessing of the Animals
- Oct. 10 Soaking Prayer
- Oct. 17 Vestry meeting
- Nov. 10 2:00 p.m. – Helen Fritz Memorial Service
- Nov. 12 Mike Endicott – OSL Healing Conference at Grace Anglican Church