

**SERMON**  
**+ 3 Easter B**  
**April 14, 2024**

In Luke's gospel, Jesus is always eating.  
because eating with others gets to the heart  
of who Jesus is in Luke's gospel.  
It's about hospitality, and honoring the marginalized,  
and how the ways of the kingdom of God  
reverse the ways of the world, just like Mary sang.  
So yes, Jesus is always eating in Luke.

He is eating again here in our story.  
“For all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering,  
and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”  
They gave him a piece of broiled fish,  
and he took it and ate in their presence.”

Did you notice the difference here?  
He's not eating with them.  
Eating here in this story  
isn't so much about hospitality and honoring others,  
but is more like an epiphany or revelation,  
and it gets to the heart of what Luke wants us to know  
about Jesus' resurrection.

Luke doesn't explain everything, of course.  
The resurrection is still a mystery in many ways.  
We still have a lot of questions about it,  
and I suspect most of them are “how” questions.  
But Luke does make two things very clear  
in the way he tells this story.

The first is that Jesus' resurrection  
is a resurrection of the whole being of Jesus,  
and not some kind of continuing existence  
of some everlasting, spiritual, ghost-like essence  
outside of or apart from the body.

Luke says, “Jesus himself” comes to them,

and shows them his hands and his feet  
so that they can see that it really is Jesus.  
Jesus himself says, “see that it is I myself.”  
He is not a phantasm floating around,  
but a body to touch and see,  
a body that can do something so basic as eat.

It’s why, in the Apostles’ Creed, we profess  
that we believe in “the resurrection of the body,”  
and not just some everlasting transcendent spiritual entity  
without one.

The first thing Luke wants us to know  
about Jesus’ resurrection from death  
is that it is a resurrection –  
a dead person – the whole person –  
raised to new life.

The second thing about Jesus’ resurrection  
is what Jesus, himself reveals to the disciples,  
and that is that it has been part of God’s plan  
from the beginning of the tradition.

Everything about Jesus the messiah,  
in the law, prophets, and psalms –  
that’s the Old Testament to us – is fulfilled in him.  
It was foretold and promised,  
and it is accomplished in Jesus.  
“Thus it is written that the Messiah is to suffer  
and to rise from the dead on the third day.”

It wasn’t an emergency response,  
it wasn’t a last-ditch effort,  
it wasn’t a salvage operation against worldly powers gone amok.  
It was foretold throughout scripture.

And the purpose of it was so that  
repentance and forgiveness of sins  
could be proclaimed in his name  
to all nations. Everyone.

Beginning at home, in Jerusalem,  
but going everywhere to everybody.

It happened so that the redeeming work of God  
for his broken, fallen, marginalized, and suffering people  
could extend beyond first-century Judea  
through the body of Christ in every age  
by the witness of that resurrection body  
alive in every age.

A real body with hands and feet,  
a body that can be touched and seen,  
a body that eats,  
alive in every age to witness to these things –  
to proclaim the repentance and forgiveness of sins  
that comes from God –  
to God's beloved people of every age.

So now you know how we come into the story.  
Through our baptism into his death,  
God unites us to Jesus' resurrection, too,  
and makes us to be Christ's resurrected body  
alive in the world today.  
Grants us forgiveness of sins and salvation.  
And fills us with power from on high –  
God's own Holy Spirit of life –  
to live and bear witness to  
the resurrected life we're given to live.

The evangelist Luke shows us Jesus,  
who by his own actions,  
calls us to sit down and eat with those who are disbelieving,  
to eat with those who are marginalized, broken, and suffering.  
In other words, to share hospitality and to honor those  
who are lowly, needy, and overlooked by the world.  
To bring the ways of God's reign into our own lives and relationships.

Luke invites us, Jesus' body alive today,  
to come into the midst of those who fear or mourn  
and to bring his forgiveness and peace.

To give ourselves –  
our own hands and feet, our own real bodies –  
in loving service.

By his own actions,  
Jesus calls us to delve into the scriptures together with others  
and understand God's work in the world,  
and God's promises to us  
fulfilled in Christ.

Jesus calls us –  
who in our baptism are made his resurrected body alive today –  
to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins  
beginning at home  
and extending to all nations – to everyone.  
Doing God's will and work in the world.  
Because you are witnesses of these things.