

A Weekly Banquet in Eastertide

A Banquet

Each week, St. Peter's serves a banquet; of words; God's words. The Gospel Book is carried in procession, lifted high for all to see. Later, a portion is broken off and fed/read to us. Before that, portions of the Old Testament and the New Testament Letters are read. In between, we respond with a Psalm or two. All this is food, not only for thought, but also for the soul. Good news that God still loves us. . .and has things for us to do. A light on our path and assurance of help from the Holy Spirit. We come in famished and go out filled, nourished, and energized for another week.

Let's Eat!

The readings for the second Sunday in Eastertide are here:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=87>. They are: Acts 4:32-35 • Psalm 133 • 1 John 1:1-2:2 • John 20:19-31.

The Psalm each week is often what holds the banquet together. After the first reading, usually from the Old Testament, it is our response as we recite it. So, let's look at Psalm 133. What is it that delights the Psalmist? What metaphors does the writer use to describe it? What quality does each indicate? Where do you find something like this?

Now, turn to the reading in Acts. What is the situation for this post-resurrection group of people? How is it like the situation described in the Psalm? Where can you find it today? Would it describe St. Peter's?

In the two readings by John, he tells us why he has written them. Look for his explanations (clue: "so that . . ."). What are the reasons for the letter? How do they echo the Psalm? And, his reason for the Gospel? How does hearing them in the liturgy fulfill John's purposes?

What is your best new insight from these readings?

—Larry Sibley