

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 fifth Sunday in Eastertide are here:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=90>. They are: Acts 8:26-40 • Psalm 22:25-31 • 1 John 4:7-21 • John 15:1-8.

In the reading from Acts, describe the scene. Who are the actors; where are they and what are they doing? Imagine how their conversation went. What has puzzled the Ethiopian? How does Philip answer him? Much is left unsaid in Acts. Imagine how Philip might have taken the original puzzle as a starting point and its broader context in the Ethiopian's book on his way to his answer. Outline or summarize his possible strategy in a couple short paragraphs.

Now, imagine this. You have new neighbors and you drop by their front porch to get better acquainted. One of them is reading from her/his Kindle and the conversation comes around to what she/he was reading; what did they think about it? It's the same book that the Ethiopian was reading and they're stuck on the same sentence/have the same puzzle. Imagine how you might lead the conversation around to Philip's answer. How would you weave in ideas from the readings from John's letter and Gospel? Outline or summarize your strategy in a couple short paragraphs.

There's no predicting how things might go; how your neighbor might think/react. But you will have opened a subject for further conversations.

What is your best new insight from these readings?

—Larry Sibley