

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.

A Menu

What shall we serve each week? The Bible has 66 books, more than 1200 pages. How to decide. There's a list, like a menu for each week. It's called *the lectionary*. Gail Ramshaw calls it *A Three-Year Banquet: The Lectionary for the Assembly* (Augsburg Fortress). Crafted a few years ago by an ecumenical committee, *The Revised Common Lectionary* (<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>) is the latest in a long tradition going back into the Jewish exile before the time of Christ. He encountered one growing up and when he read from Isaiah one day in his local synagogue (Luke 4). The RCL is arranged in a three-year cycle: years A, B, and C. It feeds us with a wide selection of portions from all over the Bible. The readings at St. Peter's are chosen according to this lectionary.

Let's Eat!

The readings for Easter Sunday are found here:

https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=85#hebrew_reading

You'll notice that there are alternate readings suggested and we will use them: Isaiah 25:6-9 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 • Mark 16:1-8.

In Isaiah, what two things will happen? Who will do them? Where? When? (It will help if you write your answers so you can more fully absorb your findings.) As the passage ends, what are we urged to do?

A Psalm is included that we will recite together. It's our response to the first reading. When we turn to the Psalm, what words about God are given to us to use as we give thanks? Make a list. Can you find a link back to the Isaiah reading in verse 17?

In 1st Corinthians, which event from Isaiah is picked up and elaborated? To whom does it happen here? How is this event relate to your salvation?

In Mark, another account of the same event, but with a different feel. How does the passage end? How would you have reacted?

—Larry Sibley