

**Sermon Notes for April 18, 2010  
Easter III C**

**How strange that Christ appeared in order to feed them.**

His invitation: "Come and have breakfast."

Risen in glory, in the power of God

And yet cleaning fish, lighting a fire

And then bringing them bread and fish,

Waiting on them as he had at the Last Supper.

A truly dramatic action; a sign.

**Did he fear they'd soon forget that he came not to be served, but to serve?**

Had they already begun to imagine the glory of the

Resurrection would translate into the thrones they had dreamed of?

Our bishops are the inheritors of the disciples' mantle.

We have known a few who enjoyed the power and prestige; purple shirts and fancy vestments and important meetings.

If the apostles were already looking for a nice office and a big staff,

the Lord's service at table might have called them back to himself, to the humility of his service.

**Also real is the possibility that they were already bored of the Resurrection.**

After all, Peter was ready to get back to fishing.

Everyone else was ready to go with him.

We might know something about that as well, a couple of weeks past Easter.

Indeed 2000 years past the first Easter.

The wonder of a high and holy day fading;

Memorial Day and summer's freedom beckoning.

We got Jesus risen again; let's get on with the rest of our lives.

**In either case, he might have also thought a meal the best place to remind them that ministry might not always be exciting or good for their egos.**

The Lord fed them to remind them of the work of feeding that he gave them.

Sometimes, the faithful thing is to show up and make sure that people get fed.

Some Soup Kitchen workers might occasionally feel that way.

A little bored, the passion for the hungry waning.

And yet you appear to feed, as the Lord appeared to feed.

The resurrected life is not all dazzling light and angels.

Sometimes it is getting up and stirring the soup.

**I am on the Board of our local United Way.**

What a great organization; I have learned so much.

But a moment of rub every once in a while, as we begin talking about **outcomes**.

United Way hopes to change communities; wants measurable progress. Worthy goals.

But we ask, how does the work of the Soup Kitchen or the Food bank fit into that vision?

The outcomes are this: people who were hungry are full.

Usually, they get hungry again.

We feed them again.

**Technocrats and Social Darwinists think this is a problem.**

We ought to engineer hunger away or let people starve.

I said in a recent meeting that perhaps United Way agencies could specialize in transforming communities.

And the Christians could just feed people.

Because we'll do it. Feeding people is in our DNA.

**The Lord appeared to feed them and then ordered Peter to take up the ministry of feeding.**

Three times he asked him about the extent of his love;

Three times he told him to tend and feed his sheep.

Peter, the rock on whom the church was built;

So this divine commandment from the lips of the Risen Lord is extended to us.

**Feeding is so much of the work of the church.**

A fitting metaphor for almost all that we do.

Feeding with food; spiritual nourishment.

Feasting on the Word.

Feeding one another and the hungry world around us.

And of course, Christ still feeds us  
the meal that sustains for our work on his model.

**As Jesus talked with Peter, he turned him from a fisherman into  
a shepherd.**

The ominous words about Peter's death remind us of Jesus'  
earlier teaching about the Good Shepherd.

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life  
for his sheep."

Jesus gave that sacrificing, shepherding work to Peter.

Jesus gave that sacrificing, shepherding work to the bishops  
who follow in the apostolic way.

But Jesus gave that sacrificing, shepherding work to all of us.

**We have received the new life of the Resurrection in order to  
share it.**

**So let us keep the feast; let us feed the sheep.**