

The Faith of Our Fathers

In the Gospel, we are invited to a Supper; or rather, we are compelled, attracted and drawn by the merciful invitation of Our God to enter. But those who would not come make excuses. Yet let us not be too harsh with them, for they simply show us our true inner self—what little we think of this Supper even as we receive it. Nevertheless, we are invited and urged to taste Our Lord in His goodness. So let us feast on that which truly feeds and nourishes and strengthens our soul.

Which is better for you—things that excite and delight your body, or the Holy Things of God which delight your soul? The physical pleasures soon fade and need to be redone. But the Holy Things are repeated only so that our faith and hope in God is increased, and so we do not lose sight of our heavenly home. Be careful, then, not to be like those in today's Gospel who, in pursuit for earthly treasures, make light of the Eucharistic Banquet around the Throne of God. For what you receive in the Holy Mass endures through this life into the life of the world to come.

Heavenly food, so carefully prepared and subjected to the intense fire of the cross, is served up and offered to the whole worlds. Wherever Christians are gathered, there you will find the table. The preaching of the gospel is the dish. The servers are the pastors. Christ is the food. Through the pastor's mouth the food is laid on the table and served. For when the gospel is preached, this food is served up and offered. It is embraced solely in the Word and is heard by young and old, learned and unlearned, rich and poor. Each believer receives just as much as anyone else, for it is a food that fills and satisfies. (Blessed Martin Luther)

For *Trinity 2*. These excerpts are intended as meditative pieces for the Day's pericopes. They have been edited and abridged for style, sense and space.

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