

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



Weekly Sermon Series

Taking Root: Walking Wet ...Bread of Life Exodus 13:3–10; Matt. 26:17–19; 26–29

It is a mystery! It always has been and always will be...in our finite “need to see it to believe it” human minds: that God can take DEAD plants (crushed wheat and crushed grapes) and feed us with the body and blood of JESUS.

God invites us, indeed commands us, to come at certain times and join with God in a meal of remembrance. God has been doing this for several thousand years. In Exodus we find such a command. Read Exodus 13:3–10. God tells the Israelites to remember God’s saving grace as God brought the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt, and every year at the same time to follow the ritual of eating bread without yeast for one week and on the seventh day hold a festival celebration in honor of the Lord who gave them law and salvation. This celebration confirms the “Passover” which saved lives.

As Jesus approached his appointed time, in the prime of his adulthood, to give up his life for all of humanity, he again uses bread to gather his disciples in a commemorative feast. Matthew 26 tells us of the preparation to again gather for the remembered Passover week. Read Matthew 26:17–29. During that meal in the upper room in Jerusalem, Jesus invites his close friends to come and eat

the bread (his body) and drink the cup (his blood). This is the ritual of the new covenant which promises the forgiveness of all sins for those who partake in the feast. A thankful heart is part of it, as well as singing hymns of praise to God who initiated the invitation.

Jesus tells his friends that this is his last drink of wine UNTIL he has reached his Father's Kingdom residence where he can EAT AND DRINK ANEW with each one of us every time we come to his "remembrance supper."

In addition to the Lord's Supper, what meals of remembrance do you and your family celebrate? Are there annual remembrances for you? Is food a part of it? Have you been saved from some crisis? Do you honor that gift of new life with a special day? With a token, such as a piece of jewelry, etc., or a celebration of some kind?

My niece was spared many years ago from near-death childhood leukemia, though her cousin with the same disease at the same time was not spared. In order to remember her gift of life she assigned a "new birthday date" at the time no cancer cells were found in her body so she could annually claim the new start she was given. Thanksgiving is a huge part of that remembrance. Lord and Bread of Life, bring us to remembrance with a thankful heart and a repentant spirit. Amen.

-- Week of March 8, 2009