

“For You”  
Luke 22:7-20  
First Communion  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
March 21, 2010  
Rev. Robin K. Brown

This is my body ... This is my blood .... Do this ...

How many of you have heard these words  
eaten this bread and sipped this fruit of the vine  
a thousand times?

How many have not had Holy Communion yet?

How many are here today  
hearts pounding  
waiting to celebrate Holy Communion  
with brand new chalices of wine or juice  
surrounded by your family  
and your congregation,  
the body of Christ?

Take a minute to look around the congregation  
to see each other's faces

<R wait, look around>

We may look calm  
but inside our hearts are pounding  
in anticipation

It's why we come every Sunday

We choose Holy Communion  
over sleeping in, brunch, and soccer  
We choose it  
when we are on top of the world  
and in the depths of despair

when we are sure  
and questioning  
when we are loving  
and ... fighting

Whether it is our first time  
or our thousandth,

we come every Sunday  
hearts pounding

We can't wait to hear the words  
given *for you*  
shed *for you*

We can't wait to taste a morsel and a sip  
of Jesus' promise of forgiveness and new life

The water of Holy Baptism  
the bread and wine of Holy Communion  
These physical elements  
and their words of promise  
are the reason we are Christians  
the reason Holy Trinity Lutheran Church exists  
word and sacrament

Every single other thing we do  
is because of the words of promise  
and the physical elements  
because of what God is doing today  
with them  
through Allison, David, Devin,  
Ethan, Grant, Heidi,  
Linnea, Luke, Mara,  
Megan, Natalie, and Westin  
through these young people  
and through you

Worship and Sunday School  
meetings and e-mails,  
boilers and parking lots  
feeding the hungry  
giving books to prisoners  
all the projects and all the parties

All of it happens  
because Christ comes to us  
in the waters of Holy Baptism  
and the bread and wine of Holy Communion

Everything happens  
because God hears the cries of God's people  
and sends the prophet Moses  
to lead them  
out of slavery in Egypt

Families,  
who bake unleavened bread  
because there is no time to wait for yeast to rise

Families who each roast a lamb  
and put some of the blood of the lamb  
on their doorposts  
so that when God seeks vengeance  
God will see the blood of the lamb  
and pass over  
saving God's faithful people

But Passover, celebrated in remembrance  
of God saving God's people  
is only part of our story, isn't it?  
What happens next?

God leads God's people into the Promised Land  
away from certain death from the horses and chariots of the Egyptian army.  
They walk with dry feet  
right through the sea  
God brings them out of slavery  
into safety and new life

A miraculous victory for sure  
but even that's not the whole story, is it?

For in spite of God's gifts of the Passover and the Exodus  
God's people continue to wander and grumble  
They quarrel with each other  
they worship small 'g' gods of their own making  
instead of the capital "G" God of the universe

And so  
God sends  
God's only Son Jesus  
to this earth  
as a person  
to all who are in need  
to heal and teach and feed  
to break the bonds of injustice

and then  
in the end  
to *be* the Passover lamb,  
to give his body and blood on the cross  
so that God's people

would, once and for all,  
 be brought out of slavery to sin and death  
 into the safety of everlasting life

And so,  
 on the night in which he was betrayed by one of them  
 our Lord Jesus  
 sits around a table with his twelve disciples  
 people from every walk of life  
 striving to be faithful  
 struggling to understand the mystery  
 hearts pounding  
 listening to Jesus say  
 “This loaf of bread is my body  
 given for you  
Do this ...  
 This cup of wine is my blood  
 given for you  
Do this ...”

And here you are today,  
 parents and godparents and congregation,  
 keeping the promises you made to God at the font,  
 bringing your children to the table  
 to be fed and forgiven,  
 to share the good news of Jesus Christ  
 in word and deed

Last Saturday as the 12 young people  
 sat around a long table  
 at Color Me Mine  
 with a chalice and a round bread-colored sponge at each place  
 one of the students said,  
 “Pastor, this looks just like the  
 Last Supper, doesn’t it?!” ☺

He was right  
 It looked exactly like the Last Supper

And even though this morning’s table  
 is shaped differently  
 we too will look like the Last Supper  
 we too are disciples from every walk of life  
 striving to be faithful  
 struggling to understand the mystery  
 hearts pounding

And here, in the presence of Jesus  
we will eat the bread of forgiveness  
and drink the wine of new life  
trusting in God  
believing Jesus' words  
"for ... you."

Amen