

**All Saints Anglican (Episcopal) Church**

**Steenrijk**

**Leidenstraat at Heelsumstratt**

**Willemstad, Curacao**

**The Episcopal Diocese of Venezuela**

**Third Sunday of Easter (C)**

**May 1, 2022**

**DRAFT**

**“Breakfast with the Risen Lord”**

**A Sermon by the Rev. Joe Parrish**

**DRAFT**

**The Holy Gospel according to John 21:1-19**

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples  
by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself

in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That

disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples

dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon

son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Come to us, Lord Jesus, feed us and fill our hearts with joy. Amen.

We pray for peace in Europe, that Russia and the Ukraine can coexist without War. Hear our prayers, Dear Lord. Amen and Amen.

One of the parishioners in my former church in New Jersey was a surgeon who was diagnosed with cancer. He went through many tests and therapies, but finally nothing worked. I visited him frequently in the hospital and remained in constant contact with his wife and three sons through all the ordeal. One of his sons is still a regular lay assistant for each Eucharist in my former church. Their father's

joy in life, their father the surgeon said to me his joy in life was to have a nice breakfast each day with his family. And when he was confined to his hospital bed, he said that joy he so missed could no longer be celebrated. There could be no more joy from having breakfast with his family.

Jesus seems to know that joy of eating with one's family and friends. And in one of his resurrection appearances, the risen Lord cooks breakfast for his closest friends, his disciples. It was a simple breakfast with fish and bread, cooked at the edge of the Sea of Galilee where the Risen Lord could see his disciples struggling out in the waves trying to find something to eat

for breakfast. But the Risen Christ had already found some fish and was cooking it for them on a charcoal fire out there on the beach at the Sea of Galilee. And as he sees the disciples' frustration out in the Sea trying over and again to catch some fish and coming up empty, he simply suggests they try fishing on the other side of the boat. Every scene here seems to speak of enduring symbols for the disciples and for Christ followers for future generations.

God knows we need to eat. Many today are suffering with hunger, we know that.

God prepares food for us just as God prepared manna for the Hebrews in the desert who had escaped Pharaoh's slavery; even meat

was supplied by a flock of doves way out in the desert who suddenly came to roost in their camp. So, a meal of food is at the heart of the salvation stories of the Bible, even when people were bereft and starving, God did not forget them. So many in Mariupol in the Ukraine today are in similar straits, a hundred thousand, without food and water. And soon, Kyiv, the capital of the Ukraine with three million souls, will likely be soon to follow, cut off from all food and medical supplies. But God will hear their cries even though we may seem fearful to help them. Perhaps you may recall how the people of West Berlin were somehow fed by the free world when they were surrounded:

‘President Harry Truman proclaimed [in 1948], "We stay in Berlin. Period." To do so would mean attempting the impossible: supplying two million civilians and twenty thousand Allied soldiers with food and fuel -- entirely from the air.’

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/airlift/>

That was an incredible miracle that was accomplished a few decades ago; we can only hope and pray for another such miracle for the people of Mariupol and Kyiv. God will somehow provide through God’s almighty mercies, but through us. We are God’s hands

and feet with our minds at God's disposal. We are to be the ones to help those in Mariupol and Kyiv.

But in today's Gospel story, the Risen Lord himself came to the assistance of his friends way out in the boat on the Sea of Galilee, starving, having caught nothing, and very hungry because they had not had anything for breakfast. Jesus simply said to them, 'fish off the other side of the boat'. This of course becomes perhaps a hidden message for the people of Mariupol since they are a port, and indeed there are fish to be caught in the water there in that port, dangerous waters of course, but there must be fish to be caught, and likely

people are fishing there tonight in cover of darkness, away from the terror of the submarines lurking out in the Black Sea just beyond their shores. But food is meager at best in Mariupol. And soon, food will likely become very scarce in Kyiv.

We here in All Saints have become starved by the decisions of others in another country that are preventing us to have the Holy Eucharist. We are being starved for the precious Body and Blood of Christ. But do not be dismayed, we can still celebrate eating together; we can have a small meal after each Morning Prayer service right here. If everyone brings a little something, we can share and eat

together here or next door after each church service. At my former church we began these sorts of meals with only eight people, and now that church feeds 150 each Sunday; but we started with very little. There are feeding so many that they are handing out the food from the front door of the church each Sunday.

So I will challenge us here today to bring a little food for sharing together each Sunday, enough for about eight, and share our food and eat together right after each church service.

Let us too have a meal in honor and in memory of our Risen Lord.

Alleluia, Christ has risen. The Lord has risen  
indeed. Alleluia. Amen

## “Breakfast with the Risen Lord”

Description: The Risen Lord saw that his followers needed food and encouragement, and he fed them. Let us follow in his merciful footsteps and eat a sacred meal together, and remember and help those in Mariupol and Kyiv and elsewhere in the Ukraine who have so little to eat.

Tags: Jesus, Christ, peace, food, medical, supplies, port, fish, Berlin, Risen, Lord, Hebrew, desert, disciples, eat, together, manna, water, fish, Kyiv, Mariupol, Ukraine, submarines