

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 19, 2018

Food and drink. So much of our lives center around it. *Join us for dinner. Let's go have a drink. Sign up for the church potluck.* We all know we must have food and drink to live. But let us not be foolish! Let us also remember spiritual food. Both readings use the word foolish. The first reading says, "Forsake foolishness that you may live." The second reading says, "Watch carefully how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise." We are asked to try to understand the will of our Lord.

The Gospel pulled it all together for me. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day." Yes, it is essential to eat and drink to stay alive, but our spiritual needs must also be fed. Our goal in this life is to be with our Heavenly Father in the next life. "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you."

When we share in the body and blood of Christ, Jesus Himself comes to dwell within us. Jesus said to the crowds, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." So let us enjoy our food, especially our spiritual food. Let us forsake our foolishness, eat of the bread of life and live forever.

Carol Gustafson