

## Proper 19

Evensong WW

Eating flesh and drinking blood

Hebrew metaphor for giving whole person to Jesus's way of life.

A personal relationship. A very close friendship.

An alignment of wills.

Calvin: as he takes us into his life, and, as we take him into our lives, we are joined with him in spiritual unity and in his ministry for others.

For to be intimately related to Jesus, or to be encountered by Jesus is to open ourselves to the possibility of putting him on, of receiving his image, of growing in him, and maturing in him, and becoming new creations in him.

That is, we eat the bread of life in order to live spiritually. Augustine in his Hunger for Jesus, Augustine: "our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee."

Adam and Eve created as icon of the divine creator.

But wanted to be what they are not, So they are banished, but free.

By choosing to want to be what they are not, they chose not to be servants of the divine within.

Aching to get back again

We are created icons of Christ, but we cover it up figuratively.

But many of us don't quite know how to act on these hungers. Yet we really do hunger and thirst for meaningful and legitimate intimacy with Jesus. How?

Freeing from distractions

Idols: money, attitudes

Open like children

Brought up with it, but still it's distant, perhaps

My experience in Powerscourt

O my Saviour lifted

I have to have faith that this is so – it doesn't always feel like it. But that is what the Resurrection story is about.

But as Simon Peter says:

"Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Jesus as friend. When you think about your friends, it's not so much that you dwell on what they look like. Rather, your friends have more to do with how you feel about their presence; how greatly you need their presence. The presence of friends enriches you. Friends give you comfort and joy. Friends give you meaning and hope. Friends mean life, the life of encounter.

I: sinner, imperfect, no matter how I try. But lay down the guilt at the foot of the cross. Powerscourt again.

He: the perfect human, the image of God

They: others

Two models of salvation:

Only those who assent

Cosmic – all, but you have to accept

Maybe we try too hard: Divine love. Mark Townsend.

Holman Hunt painting

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you and you with me." That picture is as clear to me today as it was more than 50 years ago. And I confess to you that I believe its message as much now as I did then: the simple yet utterly profound promise of a personal relationship with Jesus who is the bread of life, come hell or high water.

Our prayer is from the Breastplate of St. Patrick of Ireland: