



Mark 16:14a

*“Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating;”*

Today our story is about disciples eating and drinking with the Risen Jesus. Our picture is the Bread and Wine of Communion, because that is a way that you and I still eat and drink with Jesus. Communion is a path to Jesus.

After the first Easter morning, when they found Jesus’ empty tomb, His disciples are with Jesus many times. The Risen Jesus walks with his disciples, talks with his disciples, and even lets them touch his wounds so they know he is truly alive again.

The Risen Jesus also shares meals with his disciples, just as they have eaten together before.

In last week’s story, Jesus appears to Cleopas on the road to Emmaus, and they recognize Jesus when He breaks bread with them - when they have a meal together.

That same evening, Jesus’ closest followers are together in a private room. Suddenly, Jesus appears among them. Again, Jesus eats a meal with them. Sharing food and drink with Jesus makes them feel even closer to Him.

And in John’s gospel, we can read a different story of sharing a meal with the Risen Jesus.

In this story, Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James, John, and two other disciples decide to go fishing. They fish all night but don’t catch anything.

In the early morning, a man on the beach calls out to their boat, “Have you caught any fish?”

“No”.

“Throw your net on the right side”

When they do that, they catch so many fish they can’t pull in the net.

Then John realizes that the man on the beach is Jesus. Their beloved Jesus, who was dead and is alive again.

Peter gets so excited to see Jesus that he jumps into the water with his clothes on and swims to the shore.

And there is Jesus waiting for them, ready with a fire to cook their breakfast. Jesus serves them bread and fish. And this time they all eat a joyful breakfast together.

When we think of a meal with Jesus, we usually remember the Last Supper on Holy Thursday.

But after Easter, the Risen Jesus shares bread and eats meals with His disciples again. The Thursday Supper is not a final meal with Jesus.

And when we celebrate the Eucharist and share Holy Communion together, we are sharing a meal with the Risen Jesus too.

