

Thursday — April 30

## The Grace of the Table

**Acts 2:46**

*And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with gladness and generous hearts.*

They broke bread in their homes. Day by day. With gladness and generous hearts. Before we rush to the Lord's Supper — as Lutherans rightly love to do — it is worth slowing down and noticing something simpler: these people ate together. Often. With joy.

The great German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote about this in his little book *Life Together*. He devoted an entire chapter to the grace of an ordinary shared meal. When Christians sit down together and eat, he said, something holy is happening. The table is a place where we practice belonging to one another.

Think about your own experience. What happens at a meal that cannot happen in a meeting or a text message? Walls come down. Stories come out. People who sat across from each other as strangers leave as friends. The table is where community is built, one plate at a time.

The early church gathered at temple and at home — in the grand public space and at the intimate kitchen table. Both mattered. The Lord's Supper, where Jesus gives us His body and blood, is the center of it all. But the ordinary meal around which friends gather is not far behind. Both are ways the risen Lord nourishes His people — together.

### Discussion Questions

1. When was the last time a shared meal — whether at church, a neighbor's home, or around your own table — felt like more than just eating? What made it feel that way?
2. How does the Lord's Supper connect to the ordinary meals we share with one another? What do both have in common?
3. What would it look like for your family to be more intentional about sharing meals with people from your church or neighborhood?

### Closing Prayer

*Gracious Lord, You feed us at every turn — with Your Word, with Your body and blood, and with the daily bread You provide. Thank You for the gift of the table. Help us to receive meals with gladness, and to open our tables to others with generous hearts. May every meal we share be a small sign of the feast to come. Amen.*

### Family Action Item

Plan a meal to share with someone outside your immediate family before the month is out. It does not have to be elaborate — soup and bread is enough. Invite a neighbor, a church member who lives alone, or a family you have been meaning to get to know better. Set the date now so it actually happens.