

## *A Meal for the Lenten Journey*

This Lent is the perfect opportunity for us to pause and reflect on what Jesus Christ has done for us. The truth is there is much that Jesus has done for us. And there is even more that he continues to do for us as we live lives of faith.

His life comes alive to us and we come to know him most clearly as we read the pages of Scripture, especially the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In them we enter into the stories of his interaction with all kinds of people: Saints and sinners. Insiders and outsiders. He taught radical truths that blew people's minds. He restored souls, bodies, and relationships to wholeness with his healing touch. But the culmination of his ministry can be summed up best in one 24 hour period that changed the world forever. And so you are invited to be part of this journey during the season of Lent as we explore the events that took place during the last 24 hours of Jesus' earthly life.

This Sunday (March 5) we begin that 24-hour day with a final meal that Jesus shared with his followers. We know it as the Last Supper. It's perhaps the most famous meal that has ever been shared. At this meal, Jesus let his friends know what he was about to do. He would lay down his life for the sake of others. His body would literally be broken and his blood would be shed as a perfect sacrifice for all of humanity. He would set the people free from their sin, once and for all, giving them the certain hope of a new life beyond the one they could see with their physical eyes. In Jesus, the Kingdom of God pierced our world and its influence continues to spread as people love God and one another.

When we share the sacrament of Holy Communion, we remember what Jesus has done for us and what he continues to do. I invite you to come and share this special meal together that Jesus began as we gather in worship this Sunday. You can participate in other ways by joining a growth group for further conversation about each week's topic and read the companion book.

With you on the Lenten Journey,

*Pastor David*

March 2, 2017