

We spoke last week of the process of being Church, indeed of the Church as process, not a thing but an activity, and something of this is present in today's readings which highlight one might say, grace too as an activity, as a relationship in constant need of cultivation if it is to continue, if indeed we are to continue. And so you have Elijah on the point of death, giving up on life because there seems no point. Jezebel is after him and he's on the run, grumbling just like his ancestors – he's done what the Lord demanded of him and look where it's got him, in a desert without food or water. But this process of being Church, of being one of God's chosen people, will not leave him alone – an angel or prompt from God tells him to "Get up and eat " and not only that provides him with his food for the journey, for the process of becoming or being Church, of becoming or being holy as God is holy, this imitation of God which Paul too encourages his people to pursue, to be,

*"Try then to imitate God, as children of his that he loves and follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place as a fragrant offering and a sacrifice to God."*

An impossible process made possible then "in Christ ". It's our adherence to Christ that will take us there, or better Christ's adherence to us – as one of our flesh, born to live and die with us and for us and in us and so to take us with him in this process of Church, of becoming like God, of being God, in one sense, in his life and death and resurrection. This is eucharist situated in its broadest meaning. We give thanks for being made one with Christ in his journey into or in God, into or in his life with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Indeed we are marked people, sealed with this spirit, there's no getting away from this process of grace unless we deliberately turn against it, refuse the bread for the journey which is always on offer to those whose desire is for good, for God, for something better than mere survival in this life provides. We could say grace was at work in all those anti- racist protests which surprised us last week and made the work of the law unnecessary. People responding to God's "get up and eat' : evil is a Chimera when good people trust in their goodness, in their God given ability to do good. This is a Christian take of course and a moral one demanding a certain quality of life, of relationship:

*"Never have grudges against others, or lose your temper, or raise your voice to anybody, or call each other names" and so on.*

You are in Christ and Christ is in you, providing you with that bread that will take you to heaven – not apart from the world but as you live in it, as Christ lived in it, all of us then given as flesh "for the life of the world".

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