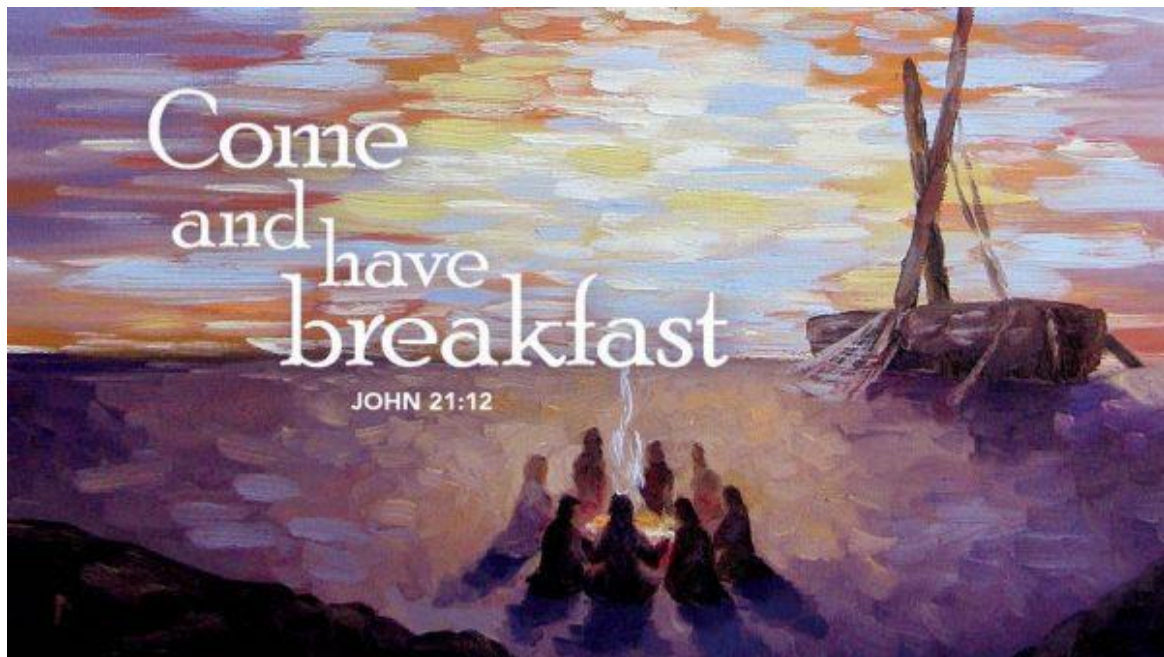


“Come and have Breakfast”

By judymtaylorbtinternetcom on 08/04/2026



Some years ago, our local school asked if we at Holy Trinity could start a breakfast club for the children there. It was clear to the staff that a number of children came to school without having had any breakfast, so we had ten volunteers (two each morning) to provide breakfast before the beginning of the school day. This turned out to be very successful, the volunteers enjoyed getting to know the children and the staff saw a real improvement in concentration and the tiredness and sleepiness, especially in the afternoon from some of the children, all but disappeared. Whenever I hear anything about breakfast, I always remember that breakfast club.

But the breakfast we are remembering today was one cooked on a charcoal fire on a beach by a lake, the sun was up and light shone on the lake. Before this there had been a charcoal fire in a different setting, a cold evening, a sense that something terrible was going to happen. A few people were warming themselves by the fire and this sad story includes Peter who, when asked, found himself denying any knowledge of Jesus when his heart was crying out yes he really did know him.

After all the shock and trauma and grief and excitement and joy of the events associated with Easter, it would have been oddly comforting for these seven disciples to experience a little bit of *normal* life again doing something they knew and understood and could make sense of. We know from Matthew's gospel that Jesus told the disciples to go back to Galilee and wait for him there.,

Having returned then to their families they needed to support and feed them in the only way they knew how. They had been fishing all night but had caught nothing. This was

not a fishing trip in the sense of a leisurely pastime, no it was real, essential, they needed to catch fish to feed their families. Then there was a call from a stranger on the shoreline who told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat and as the disciples did so the nets almost collapsed with the weight of the fish they had now caught. When John, the disciple that Jesus loved said to Peter “It’s the master” and, as John tells us, “ Peter threw himself into the sea” (John 21 v7). This time he doesn’t want to run away from Jesus; this time he can’t get to Jesus fast enough! He can’t even wait for the boat to haul the fish to shore. He jumps out of the boat and swims or wades the hundred yards as fast as he can until he gets to Jesus.

Running *away* from God in one instance; running *toward* God in the other. What accounts for the difference? What accounts for it is that Peter understands that something profound has changed in his relationship with God. He understands that Good Friday and Easter have forever changed that relationship. He understands that Christ took upon himself *our* sins—that he suffered, died, experienced hell because of them—in our place, so we wouldn’t have to. He understands that Christ’s death and resurrection have now made him a beloved child of God—and nothing, not even his sins, not even denying Christ three times, can separate him from God’s love.

As he nears the shore he will have seen and smelt the charcoal fire which will have brought back that painful memory again. But this time it is Jesus standing there, welcoming them and inviting them to come and have breakfast. This time the charcoal fire will not only provide warmth for their cold tired bodies having been out all night on the lake, but will also provide a hot meal, freshly cooked fish and warm bread, sustenance indeed and not just for their bodies. For Jesus to feed breakfast to such failed men who had earlier fled from him would also have given them grace to their souls also.

Life is what happens to you when you’re busy making other plans” is a familiar saying. The disciples on this boat were “busy making other plans” when Jesus came to them unexpectedly. However, for those of us who are Christians I would add something else: *Jesus Christ* is what happens to us when we’re busy making other plans. But today’s scripture tells us what we already know: that it’s incredibly easy to *miss* these opportunities. The disciples almost missed it! They heard this mysterious stranger on the seashore shouting at them to lower their net on the other side of the boat. They might have ignored him. And even after they followed his direction and received this miraculous catch of 153 fish, it didn’t register with them at first that this *was* a miracle.

It’s possible that if John didn’t recognize Jesus, and say, “Look! It’s the Lord,” the rest of the disciples would have let this miracle pass them by. They would have caught the fish, but they might have just put it down to good luck. Weren’t they lucky that this stranger happened to see a large school of fish on other side of the boat. They might have just called back, “Thanks so much ” and gone on about their business. But because of the

beloved disciple's insight, they didn't do that. They saw a miracle. They saw that this was Jesus.

And because he's *with* us—even when, like the disciples on this boat, we forget that he's with us—every moment is an opportunity to encounter the Lord, to hear him speak, to obey his voice, to follow his direction, to bring glory to him. We can do that in the smallest of ways giving thanks for every new day, for every delight we see in God's creation, sunlight, birdsong, flowers, trees, these are all miracles in themselves don't let's miss seeing them as such.

That wonderful invitation, "Come and have breakfast" is offered to us in the Eucharist. Unconditional love, no matter how much we may have let our dear Lord down, he is there offering everything in love for each one of us, that in itself is a most amazing miracle!