

Today's readings, in case you missed it, all had to do with Bread (and that's Bread with a capital "B") meaning God or Jesus and how consuming Bread is the path to salvation. Easy, simple and neat . . . homily done? Not quite.

Let me digress a bit. How do we consume the Bread of Life in this world of darkness? The actions of some people in society don't appear to represent the Bread of Life that we heard about today. Do I dare list some of the things that I view as darkness?

1. The stacking of the federal judiciary. Nominees to the Supreme Court who could reverse rights of privacy, marriage, among other important hard-won individual liberties;
2. The treatment and characterization of people, whether they be immigrants, women, LGBTQI folks or others as animals, objects or unworthy;
3. The appointment of unqualified people to important federal agencies with the intention of dismantling them and their work. The abuse of employees of these agencies and the devaluation and suppression of their work;
4. Undermining the institutions that make our rules-based democracy strong, vital and a model the world over; and
5. Undermining the world order that has provided the longest period of peace and prosperity that the world has ever known.

These are just five bits of darkness and I'm sure you could add your own. Each week brings more chaos in public life, vitriol against people and our world allies, demonization of people and of the proper role of government, subjugation of women and people of color and others, and

diminution of our reputation in the world. The irony is that they are governing in our name and I very much wanted this homily to be a diatribe against all of this.

Surely the actions and policies of the government do NOT represent the Bread of Life that we heard about today.

Of course, the more I thought about it, my own diatribe is little better than the darkness itself. My own hate, resentment and self-righteousness (and aren't we all good at self-righteousness) is simply echoing-back the darkness that I'm reacting to.

So what's the solution? It's Jesus, the Bread of Life. The Bread of Life is the kind of food we need to help us fix the broken world. We need nothing less than God's love to live in this world and more than that, we need others living that life of love with us, because we certainly can't do this alone.

It all starts with the meal that gives us life, the kind of life that Jesus lived and continues to live through his people. Jesus came to set his people free. We should praise God as never before. When God is with us, things change. We change. God knows that the world is broken and it's our job to help fix it.

Good News