



03.18.18 | Jesus the Host
Psalm 23:5

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
3 he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

What does it mean for God to be host?

Qumran: Location of the Dead Sea Scrolls



Christological: reading the entirety Scripture – both Old and New Testament – through the lens of Jesus.

Jesus IS the Word of God.

The most common association for this Psalm in the Early Church was not death or crisis... but Holy Communion.

In His role as host...

- Jesus prepares the table
- Second, Jesus protects us at the table
- Third, Jesus makes us participants in His identity at the table
- And finally, Jesus provides more than we need at the table

Jesus prepares the table:

“You prepare a table before me...”

God takes the initiative.

“Taking Communion”

vs.

“Receiving Communion”

“Christianity is really just one beggar telling another where he found bread.”

- D.T. Niles

Jesus protects us at the table.

“...in the presence of my enemies...”

English: Host

Latin: Hostis

“The Lord of Hosts” (armies)

Kibera: Largest Slum in Sub-Saharan Africa



Nobody can be at the Table without acknowledging that they have no right to be there.

Romans 8

v. 31: If God is for us, who is against us?

v. 33: Who will bring any charge against God’s elect?

v. 34: Who is to condemn?

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Jesus makes us participants in His identity at the table.

“You anoint my head with oil...”

“Christ” is the Greek form of the Hebrew word that we translate into English as “Messiah.” Messiah and Christ both mean “anointed one.”

Experience of Baptism in the Early Church



Jesus provides more than we need at the table.
“My cup overflows...”

Jesus is not only the host — He’s the feast.

The Communion wafer in many English-speaking Church traditions is known as the “host.”

