



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*We Trust in His Promise*

*Unless one would want to live exclusively on milk (cow, sheep, or goat,) we humans kill what we eat. We should recognize that to provide for our well-being, we consume what God has placed here for our use. That may seem like*

*a pretty harsh description of how we live, but it is how we relate to food. What was once living sustains our lives. In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus is very direct about what gives us life.*

*He says, "Unless you eat the*

*flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."* Because Jesus sacrificed himself for our sake upon the cross, we humans can admit that we do indeed kill what we eat.

*Taking our sins upon himself, Jesus died for us, and as*

*uncomfortable as it may be, we cannot avoid that reality. He died*

*an agonizing death upon the cross, so that we may be freed from the power of sin and death. But he did not stay dead. He rose to*

*life. When we eat His flesh and drink His blood in the Communion*

*that we share, we have life because of Him. What looks and tastes*

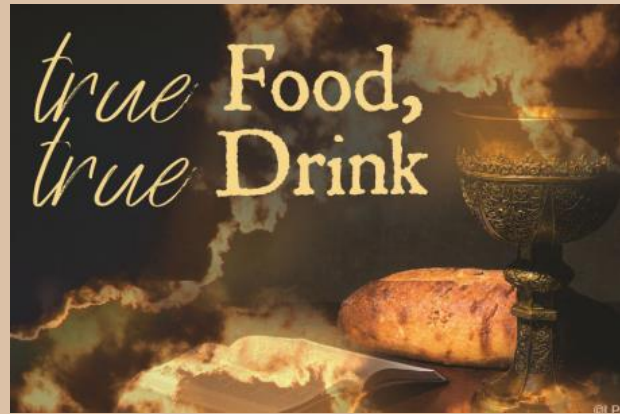
*like bread and wine is the body and blood of Christ, and we eat and*

*drink to be nourished with His life. In our Communion, we trust in*

*His promise that we will live forever. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells*

*those listening that whoever eats His flesh and drinks His blood*

*will have eternal life. We hear these words at every Mass as the*



*priest recites the similar words from the Last Supper. We hear them so often we might not even react to their true meaning. Yet, imagine hearing them for the first time that day with Jesus! The people, who have already witnessed his miracles, still refer to Him as "this man." They cannot believe. We approach the altar solemnly and reverently. The host is placed in our hands; "The Body of Christ." We are offered the cup (when the opportunity presents itself); "The Blood of Christ" and with each gift, we respond, "Amen." It is in that Amen that we are truly saying, "Yes, in receiving the true Body and Blood of Christ; I am becoming the Body and Blood of Christ and wish to share it with others." Our faith, our belief in God's saving grace, "is a treasure of life which is enriched by being shared." CCC 949*



*Peace to all,*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*