



*Then the Jews started arguing among themselves, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'  
Jesus replied to them:*

*In all truth I tell you, If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood,  
you have no life in you.*

*Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life,  
and I shall raise that person up on the last day.*

*For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.*

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in that person.*

*As the living Father sent me and I draw life from the Father,  
so whoever eats me will also draw life from me.*

*This is the bread which has come down from heaven;  
it is not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead,  
but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.*

*This is what he taught at Capernaum in the synagogue.*

## John 6: 52-59

*Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life*

## Tuesday 2nd week in Lent

The text hammers home that John is not talking about abstractions but about the real, concrete substance of the eucharistic meal. The dividing point between faith and unfaith, in his view, has its hard edge in whether or not we share in this eucharistic meal.

It is John's fundamental perspective on Christian spirituality that Jesus is found in the present life of the believing community, not a figure to come in the future. Eternal life is now, not a future promise of glory. He has no concluding ascension scene but an assurance to the church that, in the Spirit, he is always present. What this sixth chapter makes plain is that this enduring presence, while also experienced as the ongoing 'teaching' by the Paraclete, is not a vague and spiritualised feeling but a concrete engagement with and through the sacramental elements.

If we follow John's concept, how we approach and conduct the eucharistic liturgy defines our real relationship with God in Jesus.