



Walk in Love

Feeding our Family: An Easter Reflection



When I was growing up, my mother always invited about 40 people to Easter dinner. Family, friends, and even people she saw at church Easter morning who didn't have any place to go for Easter dinner.

Mom cooked for all of Holy Week, carefully freezing pastries made early in the week and making the yeast bread last. The dinner table always included boiled eggs, roast lamb, wheat berry porridge, piroshki, cabbage rolls, a giant salad of fresh greens, and special sweet Easter bread encircled with a braided crown.

With great pride, my mom gathers the guests before the meal to explain the rich food's significance. For her Russian Orthodox peasant farmer ancestors who passed down these recipes, Easter was a huge feast to celebrate the coming of spring. The signature dessert, a cheese paska, includes all the things that would have been unavailable or denied during Lent: fresh eggs, cheese, sugar, cream, almond flour, and candied fruit, carefully pressed in a mold and decorated with Easter symbols.

After giving thanks for the day and food, people fill their plates and find a place to sit. Inside, on the couch or chairs, on the floor, standing in the kitchen. Outside, at the picnic table in the yard or sitting on the edge of the porch that ran around the house. Friends and strangers sharing stories of life, family, and food while children play. Every Easter Sunday is a new community, formed by and for that time together.

Only as an adult did I realize the significance of mom's Easter dinners. How her labor of love and sacrifice gathers and creates a community, feeds people in body and soul, connects us with the stories of the faithful ancestors, and inspires us to do the same.

Walking in Love is how we do all things with love because we believe that God gives us more than enough: service, sacrifice, gratitude, gathering, remembering, eating, playing, and spreading hope and peace in the world. | tens.org

Questions for Reflection:

How will you walk with your neighbor in love this Easter Season?



The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons walks in love with God's people inside and outside the church doors as rector of Trinity Parish in Seattle, WA.

