

## **20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Today's readings link living and wisdom. They ask us why we separate the two. They show that the truly wise know how to live, and that those fully alive are genuinely wise.

The art of steering a path through life requires a trustworthy guide. To this end, God created the wisdom woman. "Whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord" (Prv 8:35)

The 1<sup>st</sup> reading points to wisdom as a woman. To celebrate this, St. Sophia, wisdom woman, in Constantinople was consecrated to this end. 7 pillars indicate that she was present at the construction of the world.

In the Gospel there is a nearly imperceptible move from bread as a symbol to bread as a sacrament. The focus is on eating his flesh and drinking his blood. Christ is that bread of life not manna. Christ establishes the new covenant and replaces the old covenant.

The separate mention of flesh and blood emphasizes that believers receive the living Jesus in the celebration of the Eucharist. And to share in the Eucharist is to share in the life of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

Like the wisdom woman, Jesus is wisdom personified. "In the beginning was the Word" begins John's Gospel. He reflects God's glory and light. As in the Gospel, he challenges us to accept him as the Living Bread. The wise will accept him and live the fullness of life. Those who are truly wise know how to live.