We often hear it said at the Lord’s Table that “Jesus is here with us.” That is true, but how many know why it is true? To cite Matthew 18:20 as confirmation of this affirmation is to take a verse out of its context. It says, “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” If one takes the time to look at that verse in its context one cannot miss the point that this statement made by Jesus was in reference to the exercise of church discipline, not the Lord’s Supper. Also, to cite 1 Corinthians 3:16 or 6:19 to support the idea that “Jesus is here with us” at the table, is to take two verses from their context that has nothing to do with the Lord’s Supper but do by inference teach that indeed that “Jesus is here with us.” But let us look at a scripture in which the Lord Himself states that at the table He “is here with us”.

The synoptic gospels - Matthew, Mark, and Luke - each record the same event when Jesus on the night of His betrayal instituted the Lord’s Supper. On that night He told His Apostles that the “bread” was His “body” and the “cup” was His “blood.” Then as recorded in Luke 22:18, He said “for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” There are several points that could be made but limiting our focus only on this one statement one cannot help but see that Jesus taught that (1) He would again “drink of the fruit of the vine” and (2) when He would drink again of this “fruit of the vine” would be when “the kingdom of God comes.”

So the question before us is has the “kingdom of God” come or, are we waiting on it to come? If we are waiting on it to come then Jesus has not drunk “of the fruit of the vine” for almost two millennia. But, if at some point in the time the kingdom has come then Jesus has been drinking “of the fruit of the vine” since its arrival. What does the Bible say?

One cannot avoid the truth that the church is the kingdom of God. Jesus said to Peter in Matthew 16, “…I will build My church...And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven...” Irreverent humor is made picturing Peter at the “golden gates” determining who will get in heaven and who won’t. Jesus did not have this in mind in Matthew 16. Speaking to the church of Christ at Colosse Apostle Paul said, “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love...” Does one really believe that Paul was in heaven talking to others in heaven when he made this statement? If they were not in the kingdom in heaven then where were they? The answer, of course, is they were on the earth but in the church, the “kingdom of the Son of His love.” Jesus made a revealing prophesy in Mark 9:1 concerning when the “kingdom of God” would come. “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”
Are we to believe that there are actually people still living who have not yet tasted death and who are still waiting to “see the kingdom of God present with power?” Of course, no one who is sane would believe such an absurdity.

In the brief time we have, the point has been made beyond dispute. The kingdom of God is here; it is the church, and just as Jesus said it would it came “with power” on the day of Pentecost that is recorded in Acts 2. From the kingdom’s beginning the kingdom of God has been continuing steadfastly “in the breaking of bread,” the Lord’s Supper. And so has Jesus. For almost 2000 years and for tens of thousands of times He has been “here with us” at His table.

Think about it! He is here with us! He hears our Lord’s Supper hymns. He listens to the remarks made preceding our communion with Him. He hears the prayers made in observance of this meal. He sees how we conduct ourselves. But more importantly because He is God He knows our hearts and what is in them. Anytime we assemble as the church we must remember that He is “here with us.” But let us especially remember this at this time when He said He would drink the fruit of the vine with us.