Brian Armstrong:

A meal to remember. If there's one thing that's common to us all, it's eating. We often like to gather for fellowship, but a food is involved, it takes it to a new level. Meals are often the time when memories are created. There are meals we like to remember and then there are meals we like to forget. Perhaps you can remember that time when you invited guests over to your home and the meal didn't turn out as well as you thought. Or alternatively that meal that was so good that people asked you for the recipe. The meal I most remember is one that didn't go as well as I had planned. It was the meal I was going to propose to my girlfriend. It was intended to be a romantic meal. It was up the Skylon Tower in Niagara Falls.

Brian Armstrong:

It was going to be a romantic meal. I had thought through how it was all going to take place, but it didn't go as I thought it would. I was very nervous and later on in life my wife reminded me how nervous I was. I was fidgeting for the ring. I can remember this, fidgeting for the ring and when I finally got it out and was ready to propose to her, the waitress came up to the table. Needless to say, it didn't pan out as I had hoped, but she still said yes and we're still together, which is the most important thing. And it was a memory that was created at mealtime.

Brian Armstrong:

For the most part, meals around the world are times when people come together to share stories and create memories. I say for the most part because I recognize that there are people watching who are not together with their families for any number of reasons. Family breakups, widows or widowers who find themselves eating all alone. There are those who are wishing they could be with their families, but circumstances today have prevented them from doing so. My prayer is that good memories of meals with family and friends can still be found. In Luke's Gospel chapter 24, we have this post resurrection story of two men walking to Emmaus from Jerusalem.

Brian Armstrong:

We were reminded a couple of weeks ago of how Jesus came alongside, but I want to focus on the meal. You see, the two men walking home that day had no idea they were about to have a meal to remember. Luke records that the two men were walking and talking about the events of the crucifixion and the burial of Jesus and how their hopes were so high, but they were now deflated. In the story they were joined by Jesus who was unrecognized by them. When Jesus asked what they were talking about, they stopped, faces downcast, "Are you the only one who doesn't know the things that have happened in these days about Jesus of Nazareth? He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all people. The chief priests and rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death and they crucified Him, but we had hoped He is the one that was going to redeem Israel."

Brian Armstrong:

What's more, no one can find his body. At this, the unknown guest to them reminds them of the great metanarrative. The big story. Did not the prophets teach Christ had to suffer these things and then enter his glory? And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the scriptures concerning himself. As the day was almost over, the man asked the unknown guests to come and eat with them. When he was at the table with them, he took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and began to give it to them.

Brian Armstrong:

Then their eyes were opened and they began to recognize him and he disappeared from their sight. No doubt, a meal to remember when it was realized that Christ was in their midst. Friends, a promise was made with the ascension of Jesus Christ, that a comforter would come in his place. The Holy Spirit of the triune God to be with us forever. So be reminded of the Lord's presence at our own meal tables. In fact, I would encourage you this day or sometime this week to take time around your meal table to have a meal to remember. Remember those who are working on the front lines in these challenging times of our world. Remember those who are anxious, those who are frightened, those who are ill, and those who are very ill.

Brian Armstrong:

Remember those who are alone eating meals by themselves, and always remember with grateful hearts, God is with us. The unseen guest at every meal, the silent listener to every conversation. Just as the man on the road to Emmaus eyes were opened. Let us be intentional about experiencing the presence of our Lord at our own meal tables and make it a meal to remember. And so we pray, be present at our tables, Lord. Be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we may spend our lives in serving the. Amen.