

4/6/25

Sermon – Communion Message

Scripture – Mathew 26:26-30, John 6:31 – 35, 47-48, 1 Cor 11:23-34

Main Message – Be Amazed, penitent, worshipful, sorrowful or any other emotion the Spirit leads you.

For a Christian, Holy Communion can take on many meanings. Today's Message, suggested by a congregation member, might give you some different perspectives on this very important sacrament.

We are close now to the time that Jesus was crucified and the celebration of His resurrection. A remarkable thing happened just prior which we all know as the last supper. We will be reading some of these scriptures at the Tenebrae Service on Thursday, April 17th at 7PM btw and I encourage you to come to that very meaningful service. You get a "taste" of that today, no pun intended. The Seder on Friday coming up is a Jewish Tradition that looks at the bondage of Egypt and their release from slavery by God's mighty hand. Of course we connect the symbols and imagery to that of Christ. This last supper as we call it is the Last Passover. Keep that fact in mind.

Read Mathew 26 – The problem with anything that we do routinely, is that it becomes routine. So this is an excellent reminder for us to celebrate communion properly and with intention. First though, let's consider the elements of the bread and the wine.

The Bread that is Jesus body is a spiritual truth, not a physical one. In John chapter 6, Jesus tells us pointedly, that he is the bread of life and the bread he passed to his disciples was his spiritual body, which was whole and complete within the person of Jesus. When he gave it to His disciples, they ultimately become the Body of Christ, the foundation of the church and in 50 days when the Holy Spirit came unto them, they were able to do God's work. We are the body of Christ. Where Jesus was complete and perfect, we are not and so we need one another. When we celebrate communion and eat the bread, we are to remember our role in the body of Christ and to fulfill it. We together are made complete. He bore all the suffering in his body so we, through faith, might also have that power.

The Cup – This cup, filled with wine, the disciples drank and then Jesus tells them this is His Blood, which is shed for the remission of sins. The Jews would certainly understand the fact that until the high priest sacrificed a perfect lamb and sprinkle its blood on the altar of God, there was no forgiveness of sins. Jesus of course is our high priest, He was perfect and He shed his blood, once for all. If you read in Leviticus you can see they through blood over everything. On the day of Atonement which is in the fall, the High Priest would sprinkle blood on the mercy seat. Life is in the blood and without it we won't be redeemed. So when you drink this cup, you are remembering what was done on our behalf and that you've been redeemed of your sins.

Read 1st Corinthians 11 -Warning – don't take this unworthily. You don't take this for physical reasons, but spiritual ones, so if your heart is troubled by some sin, act or deed that confounds your spirit, its best to not take it. This is not for those who do not believe. There have been times when I have not taken it. However, Jesus wants you to take it and remember. If you reflect upon yourself, you can have any number of emotions, and all of them are valid if they are from your heart. God can handle the truth of where you are at. If you shed tears of gratitude, smiles of gratitude, or contemplation of His Glory, its all good.