

Lord's Supper Service

If you will be taking of the Lord's Supper, you will need wine/grape juice and unleavened bread, and a basin and towel to participate in foot washing.

From Pastor David: Can anyone take of the Lord's Supper? The Lord's Supper is a celebration in remembrance of the commitment you make to Jesus Christ, beginning with your confession of faith in His death and resurrection, and your subsequent baptism. It is eating in remembrance of Him, and drinking of the new covenant that you made with Him. Therefore, taking the bread and wine is something for those who have already made that covenant with Christ, through baptism. However, all are welcome to attend the service. If you have not been baptized but want to be baptized, I would be glad to talk to you about it.

Introduction

In John 1:29, it is recorded that when John the Baptist saw Jesus, he declared, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." And it is written in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life."

1 John 4:9-10 adds, "In this the love of God is manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

This is a night that is about God's love for us! We come together at this time to remember that Jesus was given as a Lamb to take away our sins, that through His death, we might have life everlasting. And we come together with full focus on Jesus Christ, the lamb slain from the foundation of the world, and on God our Father who loved us.

On the night in which Jesus was betrayed, He met with His disciples to eat the Passover. He said to them, "with fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God" (Luke 22:15-16).

The eating of the Lord's Supper is a celebration of God's love and work of propitiation for us. His love and attention was on us. And now we come in faith and trust to put our love and attention on Him.

We do this not of any greatness of ourselves, not with pride in our heart, nor envy, nor division. For Paul instructs us, "He who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup... for if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged."

And so, we come not in pride, but in humility and appreciation for what Jesus did. Our celebration is not about our greatness or goodness, but rather it is about the greatness and goodness of Jesus Christ, who gave His life to free us from the curse of death and to wash away all the sin and stains of grief and sorrow it causes. Let us eat tonight in humility for what God has done for each of us as believers in Him.

Prayer: Pray for a heart of humility and appreciation for the sacrifice of Jesus as we wash feet and eat the Lord's Supper.

Foot Washing

On this intimate night with Jesus' disciples, John records a significant act of love and service by our Lord. In John 13:1-17, we read that Jesus washed each of the disciples' feet:

"Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean." So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

As disciples of Jesus, we can try to imagine that experience of Jesus washing their feet, and the profound impact it made on the disciples. Their great Lord and Teacher was willing to perform such a lowly and menial task of washing other men's feet. What humility and love!

The following lessons emerge from the foot washing passage:

- The Father had given all things into Jesus' hands, and with this power and authority, He used it to serve His disciples. This is consistent with Mark 10:45, which says, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- Peter resisted the notion of Jesus washing his feet, but Jesus said that unless I wash you, you have no part with Me. We need to let Jesus serve us in all its manifestations, and not resist it.
- Jesus knew the feet he was washing would be the feet that would teach, serve and preach the gospel after his death and resurrection. Paul, quoting Isaiah 52, says, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15)
- Jesus said that He performed this foot washing to set the example for us, that we would wash one another's feet, and by extension, be willing to serve and to be served by others in the Body of Christ.
- Blessings come by doing what Jesus taught, not by knowledge alone. We must take action to serve one another.

We recommend that as you wash another's feet, imagine that those feet are the feet of Jesus. And as someone is washing your feet, imagine that it's Jesus washing your feet. Finally, upon completing the washing of one another's feet, pray for each other.

Prayer: Pray for God to bless our efforts in serving one another.

The Body

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 On the night in which Jesus was betrayed, when He had taken bread, given thanks, and broke it, He said Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me. We can consider that it was Jesus who took the bread, Jesus who gave thanks for the bread, Jesus who broke the bread, and Jesus who said this bread was His body, broken for us.

As we gather to eat, we remember that Jesus knew exactly who He was and what He was doing for us. We remember that He was thankful that He could give an offering for us.

Breaking the body was something prophesied in Isaiah 53:4-6,

“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

We remember that all our grief, sorrow and sin was put on Jesus. The whole reason His body was broken was so He could bear our sins, our griefs, our sorrows, and ultimately, our death. The only way we have ever come to know peace is because of what Jesus did for us by taking our sins and the consequences of our sins onto Himself. Isaiah 53:10-12 continues:

“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many. For He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.”

Jesus gave thanks for His broken body because by it, He bore our sins. By it, He was made an offering for sin for all of us. By it, He justified many because all the guilt of our iniquity was on Him and He took our punishment of death on Himself that we might have eternal life.

Romans 6:23 says “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” We have this hope of life because Jesus took the penalty of death from us and gave us His life in exchange.

In John 6:48-51, Jesus says, “I am the bread of life. Your father ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

You and I have hope of life because Jesus came to bear our iniquities that we might be made righteous. “For He who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). And adding to this in Romans 4:5-8 it is written,

“But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom

God imputes righteousness apart from works: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.

We eat in faith, remembering Jesus and His body broken for our good. We believe that all our sins are taken away from us and what remains is a blessed man to whom the LORD does not impute sin. He does not impute it to us because our Savior Jesus, the Lamb of God, has taken it all away. We celebrate tonight the love God has for us, such great love that our Savior was willing to have our sins put on Him that we might be only sin as righteous in the eyes of God.

The Blood

In Matthew 26:27 it says, "Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." We can consider that, as with the body, we see it is Jesus who take the cup, Jesus who gives thanks for it, Jesus who tells His disciples to drink of it for it is His blood of the new covenant, and it is Jesus who knows He will shed it for many for the remission of sins.

By His blood, we have been given forgiven by the blood of Jesus. Romans 3:21-26 says,

"Now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

It is by the blood of Jesus Christ that we have been spared. Just as Israel applied the blood to their doorposts as a sign of faith in God, so is the blood of Jesus Christ causes God to pass over our sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate that He is both Just and the Justifier of one who has faith in Jesus. Tonight we drink in remembrance, celebrating the shed blood of Jesus that made us free and just in the sight of God.

1 Peter 1:18-19 adds, "knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Just as Israel was redeemed by the blood on the doorposts, so have you and I been redeemed by the blood of Jesus being applied to our lives. We believe in the blood of Jesus, that it is the priceless treasure that has redeemed us from the world and brought us near to God.

Ephesians 2:12-13 reminds us that, "you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

It is our sin that has separated us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). But God our Father sent Jesus forth that we might have life by His shed blood.

Tonight we gather here to eat of the body of Christ in remembrance of how he bore our sins. And tonight we gather here to drink of the blood of Christ in remembrance that His blood cleansed us of our sin and redeemed us from the world to bring us near to Jesus. This is the work of the sacrifice of Christ and the new covenant that is founded in His blood.

As Hebrews 8-10 describe, it is Jesus who came not with the blood of bulls and goats for forgiveness of sin, but with His own blood He entered into the Most Holy Place and with His own blood He has cleansed us of our sins. What could be more intimate than Jesus taking our sins upon Himself and cleansing them with His own shed blood.

Jesus knows exactly who you are and it was His choice to shed His own blood to make you clean, and as white as snow. It is the blood of the new covenant, where our sins and lawless deeds are remembered no more.

Prayer: Offer a prayer of thanks for the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Take the bread, break it, give thanks for it and eat it in remembrance of Jesus.

Take the wine, give thanks for it, and drink it in remembrance of Jesus.

Conclusion

READ JOHN 17

And now may the LORD bless you and keep you,
May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.