



Lay Eucharistic Minister Training

Presbytery of Northumberland

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Pastor to the Presbytery





Devotional Thought: Acts 2:43-47

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.



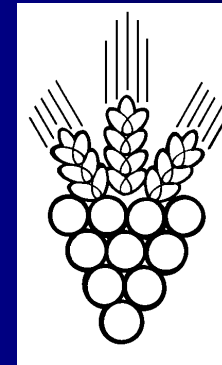
Devotional Thoughts

- What was the most awesome Communion experience you ever had?
- What does it take to experience the awesome presence of God in worship?
- When it says all believers were together and had everything in common what do you think that really meant?
(Is it possible to really be one in spirit)



Devotional Thoughts Acts 2:46-47

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.





Devotional Thoughts Acts 2:46-47

- What do these passages say to you about the New Testament Church when we talk about fellowship, community & (communion)
- What was the end result of their worshipping experience?

Opening Prayer



Divine, merciful Father, prepare our hearts for the experience of Holy Communion. We are sinners, we have failed you; so before the bread ever touches our lips, before we partake of the wine, purify our hearts that thy may be clean. Take from us all bitterness, all ill will, all envy, anything contrary to your holy will.

Opening Prayer



The bread reminds us of the body of you Son, Jesus Christ, his broken body, his nail-pierced body; the cup tells us that he gave his life, his pure life, to make atonement for our sins. So may we remember Jesus Christ, his death upon the cross, the sacrifice he made in our behalf.

And Father, as your Son didst give himself for us, may we give ourselves for others. Through Jesus Christ the crucified. Amen

Book of Order G-6.0304



Specific Responsibilities of Elders:

They should cultivate their ability to teach the Bible and may be authorized to supply places which are without the regular ministry of the Word and Sacrament.

In specific circumstances and with proper instruction, specific elders **may be authorized by the presbytery to administer the Lord's Supper in accord with G-11.0103z.**

A Biblical Understanding



Matthew 26-17-19

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.



A Biblical Understanding

- What was the Passover Seder?
- Why was the Passover Important?
- Who participated in the Passover?
- What were the key elements of the Passover meal?
 - The Lamb
 - The Bread (no leaven)
 - The Wine



A Biblical Understanding



The Institution of the Lord's Supper

Matthew 26: 26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

A Biblical Understanding



- Jesus Broke The bread
 - This was a symbol of His Broken Body
 - Traditionally the middle loaf of bread in the Passover meal was broken and given to the people
- Jesus Took the Cup
 - This is my blood of the covenant
 - Third Cup “Cup of Redemption”



A Biblical Understanding



- Q: How often did the early Christian Community celebrate the Lord's Supper?

Life among the Believers

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

46-47 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.



A Biblical Understanding

Paul's Understanding of the Lord's Supper....

1 Cor 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

A Biblical Understanding



Q: What is the importance of having this ritual passed down to us from the Lord to Paul to us....

Q: What was the problem in the church at Corinth that Paul had to offer them these instructions 1 Cor 11:17-22

A Biblical Understanding



Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you; and to some extent I believe it. Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine.

A Biblical Understanding



When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. What! Do you not have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

A Biblical Understanding



Q: Have you ever experienced a communion service that did not honor God?

Q: What does this passage of scripture say to you about how you are to conduct a communion service and why communion is to be taken seriously?

Theological Understanding: What Do you think about this...



The Lord's Supper is the sacrament of spiritual nurture. How many times do you eat? Many times. How often do you eat? You eat frequently and regularly. In like manner, you partake of the Lord's Supper frequently and regularly. When you eat, do you have an active role? Yes, you do. You feed yourself. In like manner, the Lord's Supper is an active sacrament. You take, you eat, you drink, you do this in remembrance, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.



Theological Understanding

What do you think of this statement:

Bread nourishes, sustains and maintains the life of the body. Wine nourishes, refreshes, strengthens and gladdens. That is what the sacrificial work of Jesus does for us spiritually. We must constantly commune with Christ, or we will spiritually weaken and die. When we abide in Christ as a branch abides in a vine, we spiritually thrive and bear much fruit. When we neglect communion with Christ, we are like a branch severed from the vine. The branch is deprived of the life sustaining sap, and it withers and dies.

Theological Understanding



The symbolism of the Lord's Supper is that of eating and drinking. Jesus said that the sacramental bread which we break is His body, and the sacramental drink which we bless is His blood.

Q: In what sense is that true? In what way does the Lord's Supper involve the literal body and blood of Christ?

There are four different suggested answers:

Theological Understanding



✠ Roman Catholic Understanding

Transubstantiation. The view of Rome is that the bread retains the outer form of bread, but the invisible substance of the bread becomes the literal body of Jesus. The bread still looks, feels, smells and tastes like bread, but it is really the flesh of Jesus.

Theological Understanding



The problem with this view is that it says that Jesus' body and blood are here on earth every time someone celebrates the Lord's Supper.

That simply is not true. Jesus is still with us on earth in terms of His divinity and through His Holy Spirit, and that is why Jesus could promise that He will be with us always, even to the end of the age.

Jesus' humanity, however, is not on earth but in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. Jesus' in His humanity will not return to earth until that event we call the Second Coming:

Theological Understanding



⚔ LUTHERAN VIEW OF COMMUNION

Consubstantiation. This view says that when Jesus' was glorified, His physical body became omnipresent.

His physical body is now everywhere, but it is especially present in the communion bread like magnetism is present in a magnet.

According to this view, when Jesus held up the bread and said, "This is My body," what He meant was, "This bread is still bread, but My body is now in and with and under it."

Theological Understanding



The problem with this view is that Jesus' glorified body is not omnipresent. It is still a localized human body. When Stephen was martyred and looked into heaven, He saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God with a localized body. Other verses tell us that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God:

Colossians 3:1 1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Theological Understanding



✠ Zwinglian View.

Memorial: According to this view, the bread and wine are bare symbols. It is a memorial in remembrance of Jesus Christ.

For example: Every quarter has an image of George Washington on it, and that is what I mean by a bare symbol. That image on the quarter symbolizes George Washington, but it does not put you into any real communion with George Washington. All that image on the quarter can do is to point your thoughts to George Washington. The only communion you can have with George Washington is in your imagination.

According to this view, when Jesus held up the bread and said, "This is My body," what He meant was, "This bread represents My body."

This view is getting close to the truth because the bread and wine do only symbolize the body and blood of Jesus.

Theological Understanding



The problem with this view is that the New Testament teaches that we can have a real communion or fellowship with the real body and blood of Jesus through the communion service:

1 Corinthians 10:16 16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

The Zwinglian view does not take into proper account the powerful work of the Holy Spirit through the communion service. There is more at work here than our imagination.

Theological Understanding



⚔ Calvin's view: Spiritual Presence

According to this view, the bread and wine represent the body and blood of Jesus. They do not in any way become the literal body and blood themselves.

We do not literally chew on Jesus' flesh with our teeth or literally drink Jesus' blood with our mouths. But when we partake of the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit uses the symbolic message that Jesus is our spiritual nourishment, to strengthen our faith in Jesus. And faith is the human experience of our mystical union with Christ.

Theological Understanding



How can we have this mystical union with Jesus in His humanity if Jesus is now at the right hand of God and is not returning to earth bodily until the Second Coming? The Holy Spirit accomplishes this in a way beyond our understanding, not through Jesus' coming down to earth at this time, but through our mystically ascending to heaven. The Christian's identification with the risen Christ is so real and significant that there is a genuine sense in which the Christian is now where Christ is. The Christian is seated with Christ in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:4-6).



Lay Eucharistic Ministry

Q: Who determines how often communion is served?

Q: Who determines how the elements will be distributed?

Q: What if the session wants to use wine?

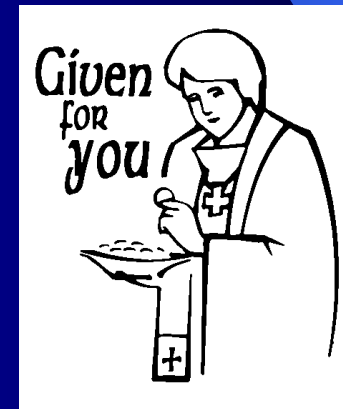
Q: What about children?



Lay Eucharistic Ministry

Q : What are the different ways that communion can be served?

- People seated
- People around table
- People come forward (Intinction)
- Bread first then Cup
- Bread and Cup at same time





Basic Elements of Worship

All the baptized faithful are to be welcomed to the Table, and none **shall be** excluded because of race, sex, age, economic status, social class, handicapping condition, difference of culture or language, or any barrier created by human injustice.



Basic Elements of Worship

Each time they gather at the Table the believing community

- ✘ are united with the Church in every place, and the whole Church is present;
- ✘ join with all the faithful in heaven and on earth in offering thanksgiving to the triune God;
- ✘ renew the vows taken at Baptism;
- ✘ and they commit themselves afresh to love and serve God, one another, and their neighbors in the world.



W-2.4008 Word and Sacrament Together

In the life of the worshipping congregation, Word and Sacrament have an integral relationship. Whenever the Lord's Supper is observed, it **shall be** preceded by the reading and the proclamation of the Word.
(W-1.1005)



Basic Elements Class

Q: How often can a Session authorize Holy Communion Be served?

Q: What is the minimum standard for authorizing Holy Communion?



W-2.4012 Responsibility of the Session

W-2.4012a. The session is responsible for authorizing all observances of the Lord's Supper in the life of a particular church and **shall** ensure regular and frequent celebration of the Sacrament, in no case less than quarterly.



W-2.4009 Time, Place, and Frequency

- ❖ The Lord's Supper is to be observed on the Lord's Day, in the regular place of worship, and in a manner suitable to the particular occasion and local congregation. It is appropriate to celebrate the Lord's Supper as often as each Lord's Day.
- ❖ It is to be celebrated regularly and frequently enough to be recognized as integral to the Service for the Lord's Day



W-2.4010 Special Occasions

It is also appropriate to observe the Lord's Supper on other occasions of special significance in the life of the Christian community, as long as the celebration of the Sacrament is open to the whole believing community.



- ✘ The Lord's Supper may be observed in connection with the visitation of the sick and those isolated from public worship as a means of extending the church's ministry to them.
- ✘ The Church **shall be** represented not only by the minister or the one authorized by presbytery to administer the sacrament, but also by one or more members of the congregation authorized by the session to represent the church.

(W-2.4010)

Who can Serve Communion W-3.3616d-e



The Serving

W-3.3616d. (In a Worship Service)

The bread and the cup may be served by ordained officers of the church, or by other church members on invitation of the session or authorizing governing body.

***there is a difference between serving and celebrating**

W-3.3616e. (In someone's Home)

The serving of the elements may be extended, by two or more ordained officers of the church, to those isolated from the community's worship, provided

Who can Serve Communion

W-3.3616d-e



W-3.3616e.(1) the elements are to be served following worship on the same calendar day, or as soon thereafter as practically feasible, as a direct extension of the serving of the gathered congregation, to church members who have accepted the church's invitation to receive the Sacrament;

W-3.3616e.(2) care is taken in the serving to ensure that the unity of Word and Sacrament is maintained, by the reading of Scripture and the offering of prayers; and

W-3.3616e.(3) those serving have been instructed by the session or authorized governing body in the theological and pastoral foundations of this ministry and in the liturgical resources for it (W-6.3011).

Lay Eucharistic Ministry



Any Questions.....





Lay Eucharistic Ministry

Different Styles of Serving Communion:

- ⊕ Intinction: People coming forward
- ⊕ People coming forward with trays
- ⊕ Formal
- ⊕ Informal
- ⊕ Bread first then Cup
- ⊕ Bread and Cup eating and drinking in unison
- ⊕ Gathering around the table
- ⊕ Blessing the Children (not baptized)



Lay Eucharistic Ministry

Class Work:

Pick a partner and practice one of the rites...



Closing Prayer

O Jesus, our great high priest,
be present with us
as you were present with your disciples,
and make yourself known to us in the breaking of bread.

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own goodness,
but in your all-embracing love and mercy.

We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under your
table, but it is your nature always to have mercy.

So feed us with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, your
Son,

that we may forever live in him and he in us. Amen.