

# Three Powerful Gifts.

The Church and Its Sacraments

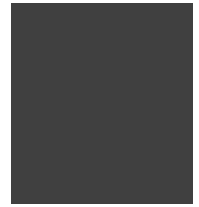


## SERMON NOTES

Week 3 June 30, 2024

“The Power of Holy Communion”

1 Corinthians 11:23-26



### I. Significant Events with Meals

- A. We celebrate and grieve with \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the defining story for Jewish people and the story is remembered and commemorated through a meal.
- C. For Christians, the Last \_\_\_\_\_ is our defining story and it revolves around a meal.
- D. The Latin word *companionem* means to break bread with \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. The Significance of the Last Supper According to Paul

- A. Paul is writing the \_\_\_\_\_ account of the Last Supper.
- B. Jesus began the meal by giving \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Jesus says that we are to \_\_\_\_\_ him through this meal.
- D. The Lord’s Supper is this sign, when we receive it, of the \_\_\_\_\_ we have with God.
- E. When we take the bread and wine, we remember Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_ until he comes again.

### III. The Significance of the Last Supper According to John

- A. When John talks about the Last Supper, he doesn’t talk about it \_\_\_\_\_; he uses metaphors and symbols.
- B. Jesus satisfies our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Part of what we are meant to see with the Last Supper is the promise of \_\_\_\_\_ life.
- D. When we share in this meal, Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ in us, and we are abiding with him.

### IV. “Eating My Flesh” and “Drinking My Blood”?

- A. In Catholicism, the belief is that the bread and wine \_\_\_\_\_ become the body and blood of Jesus.
- B. Protestants believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine but not \_\_\_\_\_.

### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *July 1-6, 2024*

## INTRODUCTION

Christian denominations tend to disagree on various aspects of communion. Is Christ present in the bread and drink, is he present in ways we can't understand or is it just all symbolism? What is the meaning and power of communion in the United Methodist faith?

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### Monday: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the Roman Empire, dying on a cross was a horrible, disgraceful fate. No one ever said, "Be sure to tell people I died on a cross" - no one until Jesus. But the young, rapidly spreading Christian movement had this central act of worship - one Jesus himself started on the night before his execution - which (as the apostle put it) "broadcast the death of the Lord." How can Communion help to remind you that you serve a Lord the Romans executed?

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### Tuesday: Exodus 12:1-7, 13, 21-27, Luke 22:11

Three symbols were at the core of the Passover Supper. Israelites sacrificed a "flawless" lamb, its blood protected the Israelites from death, and eating the lamb was an act that set them apart as God's people. How can the meanings of the Passover symbols of lamb, blood, and eating add deeper meaning for you as a Christian taking part in the Lord's Supper?

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### Wednesday: Exodus 13:3, 1 Corinthians 11:24-25, 1 Peter 1:14-19

Why would Jesus think it important to ask his followers to "remember" him by sharing bread and wine? They'd been with him for three years - they surely wouldn't forget. But Moses had asked Israel to "remember" the epic event of the Exodus. John's gospel said Jesus "didn't need anyone to tell him about human nature, for he knew what human nature was" (John 2:25). Yes, we forget. How does taking part in Communion help you remember what Jesus has done for you?

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### Thursday: Luke 22:20, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 12:22-24

The book of Hebrews spoke to Christians who were facing persecution, and wondering if it was worth holding to their faith in Jesus. The writer was convinced that the believers were a part of something truly awesome - a reality that reached beyond time and space and was worth any price it took. How can a small piece of bread and juice deepen your gratitude that "you have drawn near to... countless angels in a festival gathering... to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant" (Hebrews 12:22-24, CEB)?

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### Friday: Luke 22:14-18, Isaiah 25:6-8, Revelation 19:6-9

None of the gospels quoted Jesus, just before he endured the cross, as saying, "I'll eat this with you again IF we ever get to God's Kingdom." For him, there was no "maybe." Even as darkness closed in, he was sure that in the end, love and goodness would defeat hatred and evil, and God's kingdom would become reality. When life's darkness seems to be closing in on you, how can Jesus' "until" remind you that darkness never has the last word?

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## MOVING FORWARD

There is power in Holy Communion; it is a visible act that actually gives us the grace of God. In the United Methodist tradition, we believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine in ways we can't understand. When we receive Holy Communion, it is a way to give thanks to God for what he has done for us through Jesus. It's a way to remember who Jesus is, his death for us, his promised coming and eternal life for us. It is a sign of the covenant God has made with us and a way to abide in Christ. And in this meal Jesus satisfies our spiritual hunger.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) food, B) Passover, C) Supper, D) someone.*

*IIA) earliest. IIB) thanks, C) remember, D) covenant, E) death. IIIA) directly, B) hunger, C) eternal, IIID) abiding. IV) actually, B) literally.*