

PROCLAMATION

THE LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 11

Jesus introduced what we now observe as Holy Communion, with the words, “Do this in remembrance of me”. Believers of every generation have remembered him in this way, but very early in the life of the Church more specific instructions were needed because people were getting it wrong.

The Apostle Paul wrote two letters to the Church in Corinth. We can tell from reading those letters that the Corinthian Church had lots of problems, including a problem with how they were treating Holy Communion. Instead of “proclaiming the Lords’ death until he comes”, they were showing contempt for God and each other. The one good thing about the Corinthians making mistakes is that it prompted Paul to do a lot of teaching that is still relevant today.

One key teaching that we take from today’s reading is that it is important for us to approach Holy Communion in a reverent manner by making sure that we bring to it an attitude of repentance for sins, faith in Christ, and love towards other believers.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow the prayer plan that you created for yourself.

(If you didn’t make one, try saying the morning and evening prayers from the “Forms of Prayer to be used in Families”, which begins on page 728 of the BCP. If you don’t have a copy, you can look it up here: <http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer>.)

Set aside a few moments when you pray, to quietly reflect upon this verse from scripture (1 John 4:10-11):

***“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us
and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”***

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this prayer, pausing to reflect after each phrase.

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PRAYER FROM THE MINISTRY TO THE SICK, BCP PAGE 580)

PROCLAMATION

1 CORINTHIANS 11: **PROCLAIM IT RIGHT**

¹⁷But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, ¹⁹for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. ²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. ²¹For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. ²²What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

³³So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another— ³⁴if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.