
WORSHIP AT HOME

Please take time to prepare bread and grape juice or wine! The bread and cup are powerful symbols of the staples of Life. Follow this Prayer of Blessing. I will prompt you



regarding the receiving of the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Humanity does not live
by Bread Alone but by
the Word of God.
Jesus is the Word of
God in a suffering
Body.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks
to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and
earth.
You formed us in your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity of sin and
evil,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke the home of mercy and love
through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all
the company of heaven we praise your
name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your
glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed
is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son
Jesus Christ.

He blessed Nicodemus, saying,
You must be born again!

One day when Jesus was in the temple a group of men confronted
Him about a woman caught in adultery.
Jesus convicted them to follow the Born
Again Way.

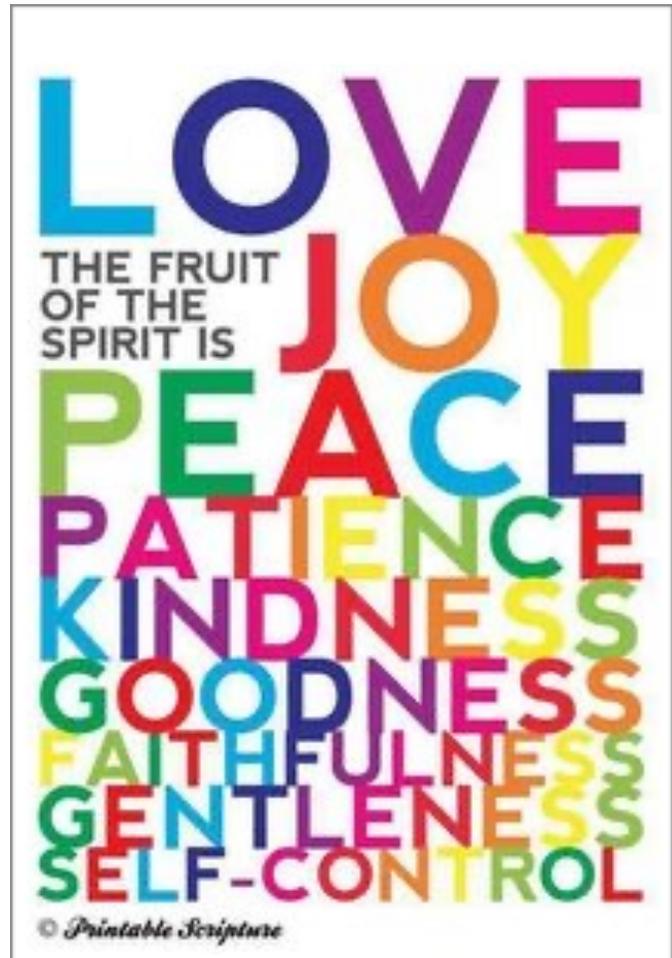
**Jesus said 'Let any one of you who is
without sin be the first to throw a stone
at (your neighbor caught in sin.)**

Jesus blessed the Disciples with the Truth.
**Very truly, I tell you, the one who
believes in me will also do the works
that I do and, in fact, will do greater
works than these, because I am going
to the Father.**

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and
resurrection you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death and made with us a new
covenant by water and the Spirit.

Jesus took Worship Public!

ROBERT



On Resurrection Sunday Jesus blessed the Disciples with His born again Life.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

RECEIVE the BREAD: Taste the Lord and experience the Goodness his mercy!

When the supper was over, *he took the cup*,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

RECEIVE the CUP: The New Covenant is God's unconditional LOVE

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,

now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER*

Scripture Reading: John 1: 14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Homily: Whose Disciple are We?

Prior to this pandemic I often heard people complain about taking prayer out of public schools. Really? When shall we stop confusing this nation's constitutional rights with God's Grace and Truth? The only way to remove prayer from public schools and public places is to fail to teach our children how to receive Christ, believe in His Name, and be faithful to practice the power to become Children of God. (John 1:12-13)

Now I hear the same argument about public worship. Who shall we blame? How about the President? Well, he made Church an essential business. How about the Governors of Virginia, Tennessee, and Georgia? They have each "reopened churches" with restrictions. How about the Bishop? Really? The only way to stop worship is to make our buildings the Church at the expense of teaching people what it means to receive Christ, believe in His name, and be faithful to practice the power to become Children of God.

What are the powers we receive to become children of God?

1. Prayer is the practice of giving self to Jesus. (Confession)
2. Faith is the practice of receiving Jesus' mercy. (Forgiveness)
3. Grace is the practice of abiding in God's presence. (Reconciliation)
4. Love is the practice of healing the heart-soul-mind to reflect God's image. (Repentance, having the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.)

Friends, each practice is an act of WORSHIP!

Jesus was not welcome in the Temple or Synagogues. He went to the mountain to **Pray**. Jesus was constantly criticized by legalistic Sadducees, Pharisees, and Scribes. The Holy Spirit led him not into their temptations but delivered him from evil. **Faithful** to God's will, He forgave sins, healed the sick, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, returned the lepers to their families and communities.

Jesus made a New Covenant with his Disciples. "This is my body broken for you." This is **Grace!** Jesus suffers for you so you may experience him suffering with you. "This is the cup of the New Covenant poured out for you and many for the forgiveness of sins. This is

God's **TRUTH**. The name Jesus has all authority to deliver you from sin and heal you to reflect God's image.

Next Jesus gave his disciple the bread and the cup to share with one another. Friends, Jesus gave his disciples the fulness of God's Grace and Truth. For every act of **GIVING** there must be a **RECEIVER** for reconciliation to be made whole and complete. How shall people know we have **Gathered in Worship?** They will know us by our **LOVE**.

The world teaches, "If you love me, you will do what I want." (selfishness)

The world teaches, "If you love me, you will conform to my values." (moralism)

The world teaches, "If you love me, you will accept me, validate me, and fight for my rights. (Relativism)

I hear Jesus say, "If you love me, you will be patient with selfishness."

I hear Jesus say, "If you love me, you will be kind to moralist."

I hear Jesus say, "If you love me, you will never insist on your own way with relativist."

I hear Jesus say, "Love your neighbor as self. Yes, love the selfish, love the moralist, love the relativist, as I have loved you."

Now, what have you heard? To whom are you listening? Who is leading you? For God's sake do not listen to me. I am a voice crying in the wilderness of a pandemic doing my best to make straight the way of the Lord. Listen to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads you not into temptation, but delivers you from sin. How else will you have the experience of trusting God's mercy. The Holy Spirit will deliver you not into evil but into the very presence of God. Practice, giving your selfishness to Jesus. Practice, receiving Christ's mercy. Practice, abiding in God's Presence. Practice, loving your neighbors.

Public Worship takes place in public! Yep, Jesus took worship PUBLIC. But I get it, like the disciples we also fear religion and government leaders focused on legalism, moralism, and relativism. So like the disciples we hide behind locked doors.

Whose disciples are we anyway? I confess that God asks me this question several times a day. The Spirit reminds me to Practice!