
WORSHIP AT HOME

Prelude



Prepare your table for Communion with the Lord. You need a bowl, bread, cup, and wine/juice.

Daily Bread used like a spoon or fork.

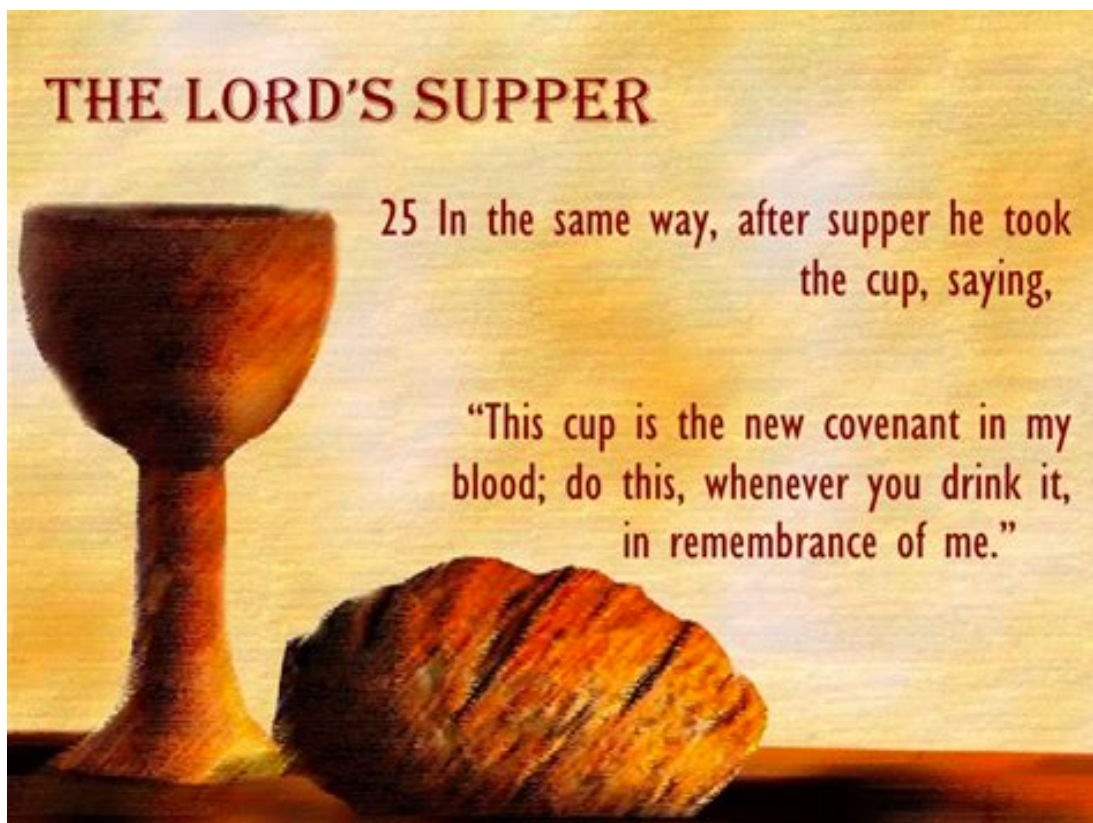
Opening Hymn:

Savior like a Shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care; in thy
pastures feed us, for our use the fold prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou
hast bought us, thine we are. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus. Thou hast loved us,
love us still.

Welcome

This is God's Table.
This table is just like the one in heaven.
Jesus welcomes everyone who is weary and carrying heavy burdens to rest at His Table.

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."



27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the [b] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Special Music

See, the New Covenant is at all times a relationship of The Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and the weary and heavy burdened individual seeking rest.

Prayer

Father, You give us Jesus to show us that your way of Grace offers mercy that flows from unconditional love.

Lord Jesus, like the 12 we dip our hands into the Bowl with you. You give us daily bread. You forgive our trespasses. Like the Twelve Disciples we betray you and deny you. Teach us again to forgive those who trespass against us. Show us the way to bless those who curse us.

ROBERT

Holy Spirit lead us not into the temptation of our 6 taskmasters. Deliver us to the Table you have prepared for us in the presence of our enemies. Let us see Jesus being merciful to those who cause His suffering. Lead us to die to self, sin, and legalism to rise with Christ. Heal our troubled minds and broken hearts. Restore our souls until at last we see one another through Christ alone.

The Lord's Prayer

Amen

Hymn:

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry, while another's thou art calling, do not pass me by.
Savior, Savio, hear my humble cry; while on others Thou art calling, do not pass see by.

Scripture: Matthew 26

17 On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

18 He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" **19** So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. **21** And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"

23 Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the **bowl** with me will betray me. **24** The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so."

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **28** This is my blood of the [b] covenant, which is poured out for many for

the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Instrumental Meditation:

The Bowl is Jesus community plate.

The Bread is like a glove placed between the thumb and fingers. It is used like tongs.

The Cup is filled with the New Covenant. God's Love is unconditional. It is received as Mercy. It is experienced as Grace. It heals the human soul.

Message: The Bowl Symbolizes the Relationship between God and Humanity

Jesus Fulfills the Old Covenant We Broke.

We tend to interpret things based on face value. Behaviors, actions, and physical attributes define our sense of value. For example: Jesus holds a physical cup filled with wine. He blesses the cup and its contents. (The blessing and the curse are spiritual.) He offers the cup to his disciples. He tells them to drink. We hear Jesus say the cup and wine are far more than what we take them to be on face value. He says it is the physical symbol of God's New Covenant. Finally, he tells us he will not drink the fruit of the vine until the day when he will drink it with us in his Father's kingdom.

Until this morning's reading of this passage I thought Jesus was saying that he would not drink wine until we all gather at God's table in heaven. NO! Jesus is saying he will not drink the fruit of the New Covenant until He rises from the dead on Easter Sunday.

Jesus is saying that at his resurrection from the dead the Old Covenant is fulfilled through his suffering and death. He is saying that from the moment of His resurrection God will only see us through His Son, thus fulfilling the Prophet Jeremiah, "I will remember your sin no more." He is saying that God's Kingdom is NOW. Every time we forgive our neighbor's trespasses Jesus the Christ is with us drinking the the fruit of the New Covenant Vine with us.

The vine flows with love. The fruit of the vine is mercy. It all abides and grows in God's Grace. Jesus shows that the Kingdom of Heaven is much more than what we accept on face value.

Betrayal and Denial

I cannot count the times I have argued with my neighbors about drinking wine, beer, or liquor. My position doesn't matter. Through each argument I reached out my hand just like

Eve and Adam. I took hold of the forbidden fruit to judge good and evil. I sought to prove my position to be right and good. Each time I reveled in judging my neighbor wrong. Each time I eat the Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, judge my neighbor, and condemn him or her with the curse, I become just like Judas. Each time I betray Jesus! Every time Jesus invites me to dip my hand into the bowl with him, break bread with him, and drink of the Cup of the New Covenant.

Judas betrayed Jesus by delivering him into the hands of the enemy. (As Paul says, we are not in a battle with flesh and blood but with the powers and principalities of this present darkness.) Judas denied Jesus' power and authority. He tried to yoke Jesus to his 6 taskmasters. Judas' 6 taskmasters equipped him with knowledge and experience of the World. He lacked the wisdom of the Holy Spirit who leads us not into temptation but delivers us into God's Gracious Presence.

Judas is yoked to 6 taskmasters: The fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil; Sin; The Promise; The Law; The Prophets; The Judges; The Kings. For this reason Jesus invites Judas to receive God's daily bread, and drink the fruit of the vine from the Cup of the New Covenant.

The Holy Spirit was given after Jesus' resurrection. The Old Covenant had to be fulfilled by the One who gave it. Remember! God calls. Jesus shows God's Way to Unconditional Love. The Holy Spirit leads us not into the temptations of betraying and denying Jesus. Jesus blesses the very people who seek to curse him.

The Holy Spirit delivers us with Mercy, to live in God's Grace, and grow in God's love. See, the New Covenant is at all times a relationship of The Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and the weary and heavy burdened individual.

Jesus' Yoke is Easy and His Burden is Light.

The Center Piece of our Sanctuary is God's table. The one on earth is like the one in heaven. This is why Jesus teaches us to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We come to this table to Commune with The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. This is your chair, my chair, our chair. We are the Body of Jesus Christ on earth. Jesus is the head of the Body. We come to this table to learn to think like Jesus. We come to this table weary and heavy burdened. We come under the burden of 6 taskmasters. It is here that we learn to deny the 6 taskmasters. Denying their power and authority will give us a cross to bear. Friends, forgiveness frees us from our neighbor's control, power, and authority. They may never change. Individually we enter His rest.

The Bowl.

Those who dip their hand into the Bowl Betray and deny the Lord of Life. This is why we pray before we eat.

The word Betray means to deliver Jesus into the hands of our enemy. (Satan, Sin, Evil.) Jesus teaches us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. Love and Prayer is the Way he fulfills the Old Covenant. He blesses the very ones who curse him. Therefore, when we curse those who curse us, we betray Jesus. When we curse those who curse us we become like them, not like the Christ.

To deny means we reject Jesus' power and authority. I cannot count the times I have said, "I am so unworthy of God's Love." Friends, worthy or unworthy have nothing to do with God's Grace. The moment we believe we are unworthy of God's love we yoke ourselves to 6 taskmasters who give us power and authority to judge, and condemn our neighbor unworthy. When I see myself as unworthy I will make up thousands of excuses to see you as unworthy. This is why Jesus says, "The measure you give is the measure you receive."

The ancients served their meals in a large bowl. They did not have individual plates with forks, spoons, and knives. They tore pieces of bread. Laid the bread between their thumb and fingers to grasp the food from the Bowl. Each bite contained a portion of bread. This understanding broadens the scope of praying, "Give us this day our daily bread."

The Bread:

Give us our daily bread. Placing the bread between your thumb and fingers we use the bread like a glove and our thumb and fingers like tongs. Today we would pray, Father give us our daily spoon, fork, and knife.

The Cup of the New Covenant:

God remembers our sins no more. God and Humanity are lead by the Holy Spirit to remember Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.. The Holy Spirit advocates/mediates the New Covenant Relationship between God and humanity.

James Bryan Smith says we judge one another based on behaviors and actions. God judges us based on Jesus' mighty acts of salvation. God is Love. Jesus is Merciful. The Holy Spirit leads us from temptation to abide in Grace.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. We all dip our hand into the bowl with Jesus.

Judas betrayed Jesus. They all denied him. They all trespassed. They dipped their fingers in the bowl. Ate the meal. Drank the wine. And yet Jesus forgive their trespasses and loved his enemies.

This is why Jesus teaches us to pray, Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. We are tempted to deny Him. "I am unworthy of his love." If I am unworthy of his love I can find a thousand reasons to count you unworthy.

You who count your self unworthy listen to what you are saying. "I believe Jesus is God's son. I believe he suffered, died, and rose again. I believe he forgives all sin. But his love is not worth receiving and sharing.

Imagine yourself in Jesus' hands. Experience being embraced in God's Grace. Listen to Jesus pray for you and your neighbor. "Father, forgive them they do not know what they are doing." Look at where such mercy comes. It comes from patience, kindness, not insisting on his way, hope. This is Love.

Now look at the your hurt and pain. Who do you blame? Who has yoked you to guilt and shame? Surely you and I want to curse these people. Like Judas we betray Jesus every time we curse those who curse us.

And yet, Jesus invites us to his table to receive daily bread and drink the cup of the New Covenant.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
On the third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Tithes and Offering

You will remember that we have experienced mechanical problems with our Sanctuary Heating and Air Conditioning System. About two years ago The Trustees and Administrative Board carefully weighed our options. The Board decided it was in the Church's best interest to limp along on one of the two

sanctuary units. Moreover, the Board agreed that, in the long run, replacing both units with new technology will save the church money.

The second sanctuary unit needs a new compressor. It is now time to replace both units and the air-handler per the Administrative Boards guidance. The total cost is \$19,500. The great news is that the Finance Committee began raising money when the Administrative Board made its decision.

We also need to replace the downstairs heating and air unit at the parsonage. It does a good job cooling. The unit operates throughout the winter months often using emergency heat. Robert's electric bill for the limited days spent each month in the parsonage runs about \$240 per month. The cost to the Robinson family will be at least twice that amount throughout the winter months. The cost to replace this unit is \$7,260. We plan to replace this unit in the fall as it is efficient when cooling!

Sanctuary HVAC = \$19,500

Parsonage HVAC= \$7,260

Total Cost = \$26,760

Funds on hand = \$12,000

We must raise \$14,760

Mid Mountain Heating and Air maintains our units. They are willing to allow us to make payments. Prior to entering the contract we ask that you make a cash offering and or pledge a dollar amount to be given by the last of October 2021.

We have moved our Worship Services into the Fellowship Hall until the Sanctuary HVAC system is replaced.

Further information:

1. Our General Fund Bank Account Balance = approximately \$32,000
2. The money used to purchase the Copier and Carillon came from the Memorial Fund.
3. Our expenses per month are approximately \$1,000 per month more than the amount given to tithes.

If you have questions please call Robert at 423-863-7622

Trinity United Methodist Church

Offering and/or Pledge Campaign

For the Sanctuary and Parsonage Heating and Air Replacements

I/We give an Offering of \$_____

I/We Pledge \$_____ by the end of October 2021

Signed _____ Date _____

The Church Office will provide monthly updates regarding our goal of \$14,760

(Please place in the offering plate or mail to the Church.)

203 East 1st Street South

Benediction

This stole is a unique harness. Notice its burden is light. All other harness go around the neck. This one merely rests upon the shoulders. Such is the weight of Mercy.

This Bowl is Jesus' community plate. He offers Daily Bread and The Cup of the New Covenant to all who betray him, deny him, and seek rest for their weary, heavy burdened heart, soul, and mind.