

Maundy Thursday - April 14, 2022

## **All Are Welcome to the Table**

[1 Corinthians 11: 23-26](#)

*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

We are coming to the end of the Lenten Season; we are nearing to the final moments leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Holy communion is the way that we remember what Jesus has done for us. We remember the breaking of His body and the shedding of our Savior's blood.

The background leading up to this set of scripture involves Paul rebuking the Corinthian church in their conduct while partaking of Holy Communion. They were exhibiting gluttony, drunkenness, and not being generous with the less fortunate. Paul read them the "riot act." Paul wanted them to respect and treat Communion as holy, not just as something commonplace. Their hearts were not in it. They were not seriously considering the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice. Paul was not pleased, and more importantly, God was not pleased.

When I first experienced communion in my church 23 years ago, my pastor stated that "All Are Welcome." With this statement, I found a sense of peace and belonging that I have never experienced in church before. I had attended a different denomination in which communion was much more restrictive. To hear that all are welcome was a significant moment in my Christian life. I knew I was in the right place.

When we come together as the Body of Christ to receive Holy Communion, we are remembering all that Jesus did so that we could receive salvation. Before Jesus was crucified, He had a meal with His disciples where he instructed them to remember until He comes back.

When we take the bread, we remember that His body was broken for us. When we drink the cup, we remember that His blood was shed for us. We are connected as Christ's people who are in need of grace and mercy.

When I take of Holy Communion in my church, I feel a sense of closeness and unity. As Christians, we are brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the way it should be. We are one in Christ. We have the awesome privilege of coming to the table as sinners forgiven by grace and remembering what Jesus did for us. My we never take Holy Communion for granted. Jesus welcomes us all to the table. Praise God.

***Prayer:** Father God, help us to never forget Jesus' sacrifice for us so that we can inherit salvation. Help us to enter into Holy Communion with a right heart and know that we are all unified in Christ. Thank you for welcoming us to your table. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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