

"Do This In Remembrance of Me"
A Maundy Thursday Meditation

This evening we come together at the Lord's Table, as his first disciples did with him on the eve of his sacrificial death. As he instructed them, we share the bread and the cup in remembrance of him, committing ourselves to the continuation of his ministry, bearing witness to the presence of the kingdom of God.

During the Reformation debates arose over how often this sacrament should be celebrated - daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Within our Reformed tradition I would guess that the majority chose monthly, but there are those who do it more frequently. When I was in seminary, I had a classmate who quite proudly announced that her home church only gathered for communion once a year. She felt that made it more special, and I have no doubt that it was very meaningful for her congregation. However, I would have to point out that the Eucharist is not an artifact whose value is measured by its rarity. What makes it special is the presence of the Risen Christ - in whatever way you may understand that presence - transubstantiation, consubstantiation, Real Presence, or shared memory. For me, it is not important when, where, and how often we gather at the table, but that we acknowledge and experience His presence, and that we find spiritual nourishment in the partaking of the meal. It is sad that over the centuries more and more fences have appeared around the table, indicating who is welcome and who is not. Jesus said, "Come on to me all who are burdened and heavily laden, and I will give you rest." I think all of us, in one way or another, fit that category!

I have the privilege of offering this meal to you but remember always that it is Jesus Christ who sits at the head of the table. We are reminded of his sacrificial death, God's solidarity with those who suffer, and the glory of the resurrection day in which we find our hope.

Let us pray: Loving God, today our memory drifts back to a day long ago when Your Son, Jesus, gathered at table with his disciples and shared a meal rich in its symbolism of sacrifice and love, which we continue to partake of in memory of Him. May this holy meal enrich us spiritually, as well as remind us of the unity it calls us to. May it give us the strength and courage to bear witness to your love in and through the holy name of Jesus. Amen