
Worship in Spirit and Truth:
“Feasting on the Word”
Matthew 26: 26–28 and 1 Corinthians 11: 17–34

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“A sacrament is an outward sign by which the Lord seals on our consciences the promises of His good will towards us in order to sustain the weakness of our faith, and we in turn attest our piety toward Him in the presence of the Lord and of His angels and before men . . . A sacrament is never without a preceding promise but it is joined to it as a sort of appendix, with the purpose of confirming and sealing the promise itself, and of making it more evident to us and in a sense ratifying it. By this means God provides first for our ignorance and dullness, then for our weakness ... as our faith is slight and feeble unless it be propped [up] on all sides and sustained by every means, it trembles, wavers, totters, and at last gives way.” – John Calvin

For the bread which you have broken,
 For the wine which you have poured,
 For the words, which you have spoken,
 Now we give you thanks O Lord.

By this pledge that you do love us,
 By your gift of peace restored,
 By your call to heaven before us,
 Sanctify our lives O Lord.

With our sainted ones in glory,
 Seated at our Father’s board,
 May the Church that waits now for Thee,
 Keep love’s tie unbroken Lord.

In your service Lord defend us.
 In our hearts keep watch and ward.
 In the world where’r you send us,
 May your kingdom come O Lord.

– Dr. Louis Benson

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- After reading through the passages together, ask your group what makes an impression upon them from the passages and why it strikes them.
- What has been your experience with the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper? How has it changed over the years for you? Is it a time of assurance and connection or more of a time of somber confession?
- If weekly celebration of the sacrament is a more recent practice for you, what has it been like for you? Does familiarity truly breed contempt as some assert? What is it like to worship in a context that doesn’t have communion as a part of the service?
- John Calvin makes the assertion that the sacraments are God’s provision for our ignorance, dullness, and weakness – to prop up wavering, trembling, tottering faith. Is this how you think of the Lord’s Supper? How is the Lord’s Supper propping you up when wavering or waking you when dull?
- What is relationship between baptism and communion? How are they different and similar? What lingering questions do you have about each?
- The hymn from Louis Benson makes a strong tie between our longing and work for God’s Kingdom and the sacrament of communion. Is communion deepening your longing for heaven each week?