

THE LORD'S DAY

September 29, 2024

10 O'clock A.M.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFLECTION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 145:1-3,8,9

I will extol You, my God and King. And bless Your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

**Great is Yahweh, and greatly to be praised,
The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love.**

*HYMN OF ADORATION *O For A Thousand Tongues* #164

*PRAYER OF ADORATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

*Our Father in heaven,
May Your Name be honored,
May Your kingdom come,
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.*

Matthew 6:9-13

New English Translation

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Christian, in whom do we believe and trust? SC 5,6,21
*We believe in the one true and living God revealed in Holy Scripture.
He is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; these three persons are
the one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.*

What a day it will be when He comes! Believers who know Jesus Christ through His Word and by His Spirit will then see Him face-to-face. The meal that is so central to our lives today—the supper in which the Lord meets us and feeds us spiritually—will then give way to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, He was already looking forward to that day. He said, "I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" ([Matt. 26:29](#)). When the Apostle John was given a glimpse of that day, he was told to take special note: "And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb'" ([Rev. 19:9](#)).

The Table of the Lord
by Jonathan L. Master
From TABLETALK

Among all the important meals recorded in the Bible, the most significant is also the one to which all Christians are invited. It was instituted by Jesus Christ on the night when He was betrayed. It is not a one-time occurrence but is to be celebrated perpetually until it reaches its heavenly culmination. It is called the Lord's Supper.

The Bible identifies at least three purposes for this supper, all of which are outlined in [1 Corinthians 10–11](#).

The first is the most mysterious. The Lord's Supper is a participation—a sharing. What is it that we share? We share spiritually in the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has fellowship with His people by His Spirit at the supper. Of course, Jesus is not physically present—the text makes that abundantly clear.

But Jesus Christ is present in a special way by His Holy Spirit. When we gather, we share in this together as one body. We have communion with Jesus spiritually and communion with one another. “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread” (10:17).

Second, this important meal is a memorial. Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me” (11:24). It is worth noting that Jesus did not institute a meal that would remind us of His miracles or His sermons. He established a memorial of His death. This shows us how central the death of Jesus is to Christians. We are not simply followers of Jesus' teaching or admirers of His ethics; we are those whose only hope of reconciliation with God comes through the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

Because of this great truth, it is only fitting that the third key purpose of the Lord's Supper is proclamation. Since we eat the meal together in the context of public worship and the proclamation of the Word, our participation is a public matter. We are declaring something about Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection. “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes” (11:26).

CONFESSION OF SIN

Based on the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, You are Sovereign in the Heavens, and You do whatever you please. We acknowledge that we do not honor You as holy in our lives and in our prayers. We sinfully worry about our own needs, but neglect the Kingdom of God. We confess that we desire Your forgiveness and yet withhold it from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please Merciful Father, forgive us for these and all of our sins through the precious death of Jesus our Savior. Keep us from temptation, and deliver us from the Evil one. In Jesus Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Matthew 6:14,15

For if you forgive others their sins
Your Heavenly Father will forgive you.
But if you do not forgive others,
Your Father will not forgive you for your sins.

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEVOTION *How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place* #469

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE Doxology

*READING OF GOD'S WORD **Joshua 20:1-9**
Pew Bible Pg, 229,230

PREACHING OF THE WORD

Cities of Refuge

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners* #498

*BENEDICTION

*GLORIA PATRI #735

Scripture reading

Joshua 20:1-9

20 Then Yahweh said to Joshua, ²“Say to the people of Israel, ‘Appoint the cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, ³ that the manslayer who strikes any person without intent or unknowingly may flee there. They shall be for you a refuge from the avenger of blood. ⁴ He shall flee to one of these cities and shall stand at the entrance of the gate of the city and explain his case to the elders of that city. Then they shall take him into the city and give him a place, and he shall remain with them. ⁵ And if the avenger of blood pursues him, they shall not give up the manslayer into his hand, because he struck his neighbor unknowingly, and did not hate him in the past. ⁶ And he shall remain in that city until he has stood before the congregation for judgment, until the death of him who is high priest at the time. Then the manslayer may return to his own town and his own home, to the town from which he fled.’”

⁷ So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, and Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah. ⁸ And beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, they appointed Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland, from the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh. ⁹ These were the cities designated for all the people of Israel and for the stranger sojourning among them, that anyone who killed a person without intent could flee there, so that he might not die by the hand of the avenger of blood, till he stood before the congregation.

Additional Scriptures

Genesis 9:1-9

⁹ And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ² The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. ³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. ⁴ But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

⁶ “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

⁷ And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you,

Exodus 21:12-14

¹² “Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death. ¹³ But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee. ¹⁴ But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die.

Hebrews 9:6-8,11,12

⁶ These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, ⁷ but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people. ⁸ By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Romans 13:1a,4

¹³ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.

⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.