

Acts 2:40-42 - Lord's Supper Service

Introduction - Have you ever thought about why we come to church, and what elements we should focus on when we come to church? The text I just read list 5 priorities for the gathering of the local church. Those who heard the message (be saved from this corrupt generation) and gladly received it were: 1] Baptized , 2] continued steadfastly in the Apostles Doctrine , 3] devoted to Fellowship, 4] devoted to the Breaking of Bread (Lords Supper), and 5] they were devoted to Prayer

Today we are going to focus on one of these but I hope we can touch on all five. I hope we can remember the privilege we have of hearing the message..... and the grace given to us so we could gladly receive it. Remember your baptism and public confession of your faith when you identified with Christ. We will give attention to the apostles teaching and fellowship with one another and our God around His Table as we break bread. And I want to encourage prayer as we prepare to partake of this sacred meal.

- This meal is a *solemn celebration*
 - Solemn - as we think about our sin and it woeful consequences
 - Celebration – as we think about our Savior and Him absorbing those consequences
 - #157 “At the Cross” (first 3 and then the chorus)
- This meal is *simply profound*
 - Two simple and small elements (especially this last year using prepackaged ones)
 - Not much of a meal..... if you miss the meaning
 - Profound meaning. Mysterious/mystical/ memorial meal -simply/practically profound
 - 1 Tim. 3:16 - great is the mystery...God was manifest in the flesh
 - We celebrate the incarnation! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
 - Phil. 2 - though equal with God made Himself of no reputation...and being found in the appearance of a man He humbled Himself and became obedient...
 - #48 “Fairest Lord Jesus” (first and last)
 - The meal is not only symbolic of Jesus and His substitution for sinners but the act of eating is also symbolic of our personal faith
 - We reach out by faith and lay hold of Christ
 - We receive Him into ourselves as life giving nourishment
- Think about how you are made. Made in the image of God – special
 - The capacity to reflect Gods image and have communion with God
 - We are made for fellowship with Him- “restless until we find our rest in Him” Augustine
- Think about what sin has cost us
 - Our fellowship with God was broken Remember what it was like to be separate from Christ, without hope and without God in the world. Eph. 2:12
- Think about the Law that stood opposed to us
 - God gave us the Law not to save us but to show us our sin Rom. 3:20
 - #163 “Rock of Ages” (second verse)

- The Law is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ Gal. 3:24
 - #168 "Freed from the Law, O Happy condition"
 - Think about the Gospel Jesus is the gospel!
 - Think on His perfect sinless life
 - Jesus did not only die for us - He lived for us!
 - Jesus earned a righteousness. With Him the Father is well pleased
 - Jesus gives us His righteousness. It is received by faith
 - Rom. 1:16-17 2 Cor. 5:21
 - #337 "The Solid Rock" (first stanza and chorus)
 - Rest in God's grace
 - Our sin is a bummer and downer....but we have to acknowledge it and deal with it.
 - And grace is the way to deal with it
 - #164 "Grace Greater than our sin" (chorus only) Grace, grace, Gods grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within.....grace that is greater than all our sin
 - Dear Christian, if your sin has you down this morning.... Good! - deal with it , confess it
 - This is a solemn time repent
 - This is also a solemn celebration rejoice and rest in Christ
 - Acknowledging our own unworthiness is what makes us welcome at this Table
 - #156 "Jesus Paid it All"
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#248 "Thy Supper, Lord, Before us Spread" (all 4)

Open Communion baptized believers in fellowship

Fencing the Table

Examine yourself

Discern the Body

56 "Man of Sorrows" (as congregation get elements)