

The Festival of the Redeemed

Lk. 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-32

September 6, 2015, New Castle Bible Church

Main Point: *Celebrate that our spiritual hunger and thirst is fully satisfied in Jesus Christ!*

Rejoice in the Pattern (Ex 6 & 12)

- God will rescue you
- Eat and drink in God's presence

Jesus brings us out of bondage.

Revel in the Promises (Lk 22)

- Drink deeply and live
- All that He did is for you

Jesus redeems us by His blood.

Respond by your Participation (1Cor 11:23-26)

- Do this...to remember
- Do this...to proclaim

Jesus unites us in His body.

Repent for your Purification (1Cor 11:27-32)

- Leave the leaven behind
- Long for His wedding feast

Jesus takes us as His own.

Opening Announcement: *Dustin & Becca King*
visiting/report



Thank you praise team for leading us in our worship.

(2nd Service only – Dismiss Children for Children's Church)

Happy Labor Day weekend! I pray you and your family are enjoying some good time together. Our family has been busy getting settled into our new home! Thanks again to everyone who helped us move yesterday – we are thankful to finally be able to start unpacking boxes and settling into a routine here in Mackinaw.

Today is a special time for us as we gather to worship Christ through our participation together in the Lord's Supper. Today we interrupt our preaching series in Colossians to give significant consideration to this privilege of Communion together. As is our practice here at New Castle, we observe communion together every quarter...but we never want this to become merely a religious ritual that we flippantly tack onto our worship services. Our desire is that our regular observance of

Communion together as a church family would be one of our highest expressions of regular worship!

So to set our hearts afire this morning, let's read from God's Word.

Please open your Bible to **1 Corinthians chapter 11**. I'll be reading **verses 23-32**, so please stand with me now in honor of God's Word as I read our text for us from 1 Corinthians 11:23-32, reading from the **English Standard Version**:

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. ²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

This is God's Word. You may be seated.

Let's Pray.

Today we gather to participate in one of the most holy and sacred expressions of worship in the church. We gather together to celebrate Communion and partake of the Lord's Supper together.

I've titled our message, "**The Festival of the Redeemed**" so that we may pause and think more deeply about what we are doing when we come to the Lord's Supper together as a church. Because let's face it, we're all creatures of habit aren't we?

Every Sunday morning, you take the same route to church. You come in the same door, and then you make your coffee exactly the same way as you did last week. And then you find your seat in the same place as you did last week, and you sit down and prepare yourself for worship probably just like you did the week before, and the week before that. We're all creatures of habit.

But in the church, we must be careful that our most special moments don't become so familiar that they lose their meaning over time. If we're not careful, the church's two ordinances of baptism and communion could become just a ritual, or even take on a different meaning to us than was ever intended by Christ for us.

Therefore today we are giving an entire service to deepen our understanding of this special aspect of our regular worship. Today I pray we could all **Celebrate that our spiritual hunger and thirst is fully satisfied in Jesus Christ!**

Main Point

Celebrate that our spiritual hunger and thirst is fully satisfied in Jesus Christ!

Rejoice in the Pattern

- God will rescue you
- Eat and drink in God's presence

Let's begin by first **Rejoicing in the Pattern** behind the Lord's Supper, by remembering the holiest of all the Jewish Feasts – the Passover – as God instituted it in Exodus when He delivered them from the Egyptians.

Rejoice in the Pattern

Exodus

Our understanding of Communion will be strengthened if we first learn more about the Jewish Passover. The book of Exodus tells the story of God's rescuing deliverance – or "exodus" – of His chosen people from harsh slavery in Egypt. But we can rejoice in the Pattern of Passover today because even when it seems that all is lost...

God can rescue you.

There is an Exodus or deliverance available to all who acknowledge that they are a sinner, and turn to believe in Jesus Christ as their only hope. Open your heart to believe again. Today can begin a new chapter where God unshackles you from your sin and grants you the blessed freedom and joy of life in Christ by faith.

In fact, in Exodus 6, this is exactly what we see God telling His children as He seeks to encourage them to believe that He can rescue them:

⁶Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your

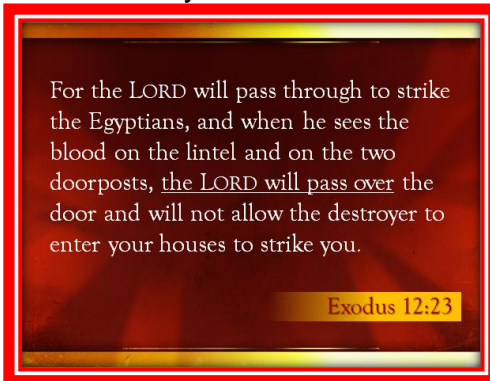
As we put Exodus 6:6-7 up on the screen, notice carefully the 4 promises God makes here to His children.

1) **I will bring you out** – no more oppression; 2) **I will deliver you** – no more slave nature; 3) **I will redeem you** – no more guilt, but complete forgiveness and peace; and 4) **I will take you** – that's perfect restored fellowship and protection with our Creator God. God promises a comprehensive rescue in Exodus 6!

In fact God's rescue provides a way that,

- We can eat and drink in God's presence

Look carefully now at **Exodus 12:23**,



For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

Even while the death angel was preparing to deliver God's wrath on the unbelieving Egyptians, God instructed His children to take a lamb – and prepare a holy meal – what would later be celebrated time and time again as **the Passover** – and apply the blood from the lamb on the door frames – and then to undergo a night of eating

and watching ... waiting for the Lord's deliverance even as His judgment would "pass over" them.

So this morning we rejoice in the pattern of the Passover, rejoicing that *Jesus brings us out of bondage...*

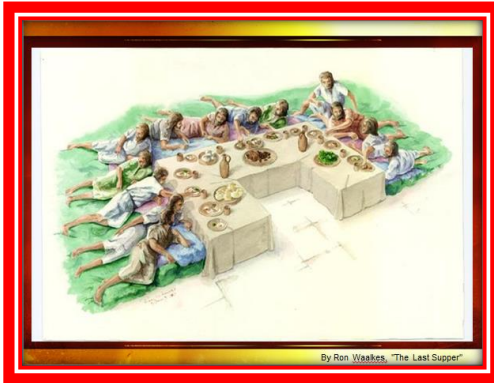


...and gives us freedom and rest for our weary souls.

So with the pattern of the Passover in your minds, please turn your attention to **Luke 22** where we can **Revel in the Promises** as Christ *institutes the Lord's Supper* during one of these Passover celebrations.



It is no coincidence that Jesus chose to institute the Lord's Supper during a Passover meal. As best as we know, here's what the scene probably looked like:



Luke 22:14 tells us that “*when the hour came, he reclined at the table, (lying on his left side with his right hand free, with his feet extended out behind him) and the apostles with him.*”

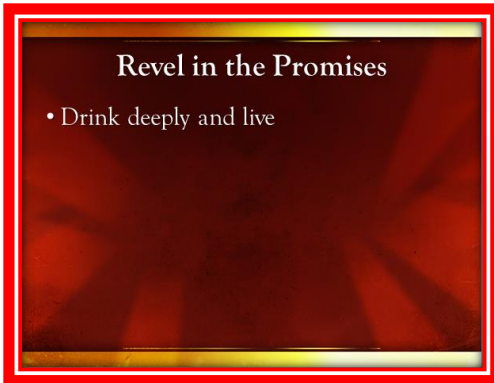
Now the Passover tradition was well established and documented by the time of Jesus, such that the entire feast was very well scripted with liturgy, washings, prayers and readings, etc.¹ And one of the key aspects to the Passover was the drinking from 4 different cups of wine throughout the meal. 4 cups that were actually directly associated with the 4 promises of Exodus 6 that we saw earlier:



As the Passover would begin, the host would drink the **Cup of Sanctification**, and offer a prayer of thanksgiving. Afterwards they would partake of the bitter herbs together remembering the hardships which their forefathers endured in Egypt. The second **Cup of Interpretation** would focus on the Deliverance promise. After this 2nd cup the host would break the unleaven bread, and the meal of roasted lamb would follow. At the end of supper, the 3rd **Cup of Blessing** would be shared, focused on the promise of redemption. After singing the remaining Psalms, the 4th **Cup of Consummation** would be shared by everyone immediately before leaving, as they considered the marriage-language-promise that God will someday return and take them all into His eternal protection and keeping – forever as their God and they as His people!

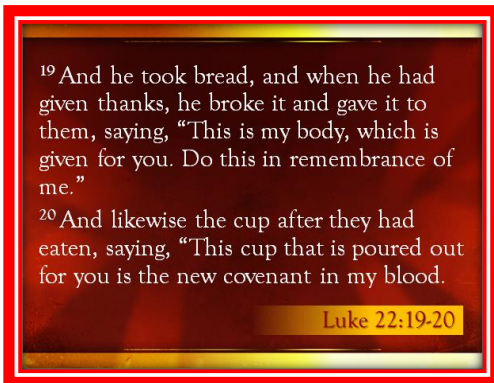
Now talking about all these cups, are you getting thirsty? Church, the Passover was given to point to Christ – so that we could all **Drink deeply and live.**

¹ I.e. the meal of bitter herbs, unleaven bread, and roasted lamb, and singing and reading of selected Psalms from the Hallel, which consisted of Psalms 113-118.



As Jesus sat down with his disciples in Luke 22 on this night, the host of this Passover was Himself the very food! Here Jesus would institute the Lord's Supper that we celebrate today, and transform the original Passover meal into something infinitely more meaningful for the redeemed!

We see the first cup taken in **Luke 22:17**, then the unleaven bread in verse 19:



19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

Now so far so good... nothing abnormal. But then while he is passing the unleavened bread, His words hang long in the silence of the room:

“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

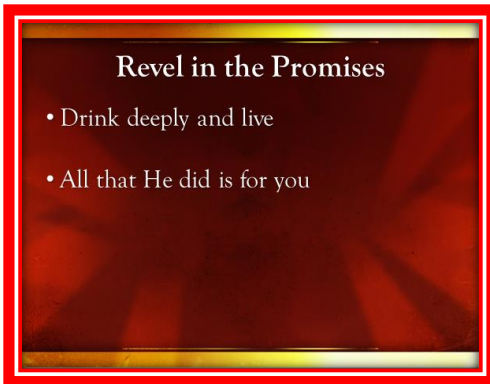
This bread without yeast – representing the sinless manna of God's provision for His children – is Christ's body?! This is shocking. When Jesus holds the bread, and says this is my body – He is saying, **this represents me, and I'm giving myself to you. Eat.** Identify yourself with me together tonight. Satisfy your spiritual hunger and thirst in who I am and the sacrifice I'm about to make for you! Do this, and remember me.

And then it was time for the **3rd Cup of Blessing**. This is the cup of forgiveness and redemption! So this 3rd cup becomes the cup that Jesus transforms into His Lord's Supper. So He holds up this cup of redemption blessing, and says,

... **“This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.**

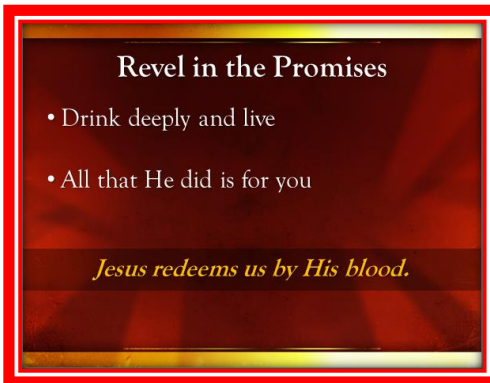
This cup – the cup that represented the blood of the lamb on the doorframes – is poured out – is sacrificed and given away – for you! O child of God – drink deeply from this cup, and identify yourself by faith with Christ. For,

- All that He did is for you



Do you see those blessed words in Luke 22:19-20 beloved? The sacrifice of Christ on the cross was **for you!** Underline those 2 beautiful words of life in vs 19 and 20.

Jesus redeems us by His blood.



Forgiveness only comes through the blood of the Lamb. Our spiritual hunger and thirst is fully satisfied in the person and work of Jesus Christ!

So when you eat and drink in holy communion with God's family – you are publicly identifying yourself with Jesus'

redemption! **In the same way as believer's baptism is a public identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ – so also ...participation in the Lord's Supper is a public identification with the Gospel of Christ and His Church!** This is why the Lord's Supper is only for those who have put their faith and trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins. So no wonder the Apostle Paul urges us with the importance of rightly,

Responding by our Participation (1Cor 11:23-26)



For all unbelievers or persons committed to their sins... there is no spiritual benefit in participating in the Lord's Supper. Only those who have put their faith in Christ and his blood covering for their sins can truly "Do this in remembrance of Christ."

And for us who are redeemed, note that our participation is commanded. In vs 23 Paul makes sure to deliver to the Corinthian church exactly Jesus' command - "Do this." Together as a congregation - not as if dining alone, not as an independent act of worship – but do this as a community who is together at peace with God and with one another.

A believer who does not regularly identify himself with the sacrifice of Christ and the communion of Christ's body is just as inconsistent as a believer who has never publicly identified himself with Christ through believer's baptism.

And so we are commanded,



- Do this...to remember

Now note...the purpose is remembrance ... not sacrifice.² The bread and drink are not turned into the real body and blood of Christ – as taught by Catholics. And Christ's actual body and blood is not brought alongside the elements in some way as taught by some Lutherans.

No the elements of bread and juice are merely *representative* of Christ's body and blood, and when we eat and drink these elements together, it helps us remember Christ and His work.

In the same way as paper and ink work together in a photograph to cause us to relive and relish relationships with others – so also the communion elements stir our

² Hebrew 9:28, 10:14

awareness and appreciation of Christ's person and work on our behalf.

Secondly, verse 11:26 reminds us that as “often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.” So we participate ... **to proclaim.**



Proclaim here means “to share the good news” or “to publicly identify with.” So while the 1st purpose of remembering is more for our own inward benefit – the 2nd purpose of proclaiming for more for the benefit of reminding one another the glorious truths of our mutual allegiance to the person and work of Christ. In fact, by eating and drinking in the Lord's Supper, we boldly proclaim some of the greatest Gospel truths, such as the incarnation, the atonement of Christ, our justification by faith, and His coming kingdom, and more!³

³ And more... the deity of Christ, the incarnation of Christ, the Substitutionary atoning death of Christ, the Resurrection & Ascension of Christ, Justification by Faith, Our hope of glory, the coming Kingdom, the Unity of Christ's Body, etc. etc.

So today we come together to remember Christ's sacrifice, and proclaim our faith in His finished work together... thankful that



*Jesus unites us in His body.*⁴

The foot of the cross is level. All social barriers fall when we together feast on the glories of Christ.

Just as when two friends shyly see each other at a doctor's office for similar help for a personal problem, a deeper bond and mutual appreciation is formed. And so for us – for we together find one another confessing our sins, and humbly worshiping in awe at God's great mercy and love towards us. Such shared spiritual experience can only strengthen our love for one another as we each move deeper and deeper into Christ.

But **1 Cor 11** is clear that repentance must be a part of our worship at the Lord's Table. As we come to remember and proclaim, we must also,

Repent for our Purification (1Cor 11:27-32)

⁴ C.f. 1 Cor 10:16-17



In keeping with the Passover pattern, communion requires us to,

- Leave the leaven behind

In the scriptures leaven represents all sin. And **1 Cor. 11:27-28** are very clear,

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

And so we come to Lord's table with soft hearts, sensitive hearts, self-examining hearts, and repentant hearts ... careful not to enter into this celebration in an unworthy or inappropriate manner.

To participate in an unworthy manner means,



- Ritualistic, without heart & mind

To approach this holy time of celebration and worship in a flippant and ritualistic way. In a way that mocks or dismisses the life and sacrifice of Christ for us.

- Trusting ceremony for salvation

Believing that the practice of communion itself actually imparts grace or merit to your eternal standing before God.

Or to be conscious of sin, but refuse to turn from it. To have an

- Unrepentant heart towards God

To come with a spirit that is ungrateful, self-centered, cynical, self-righteous, or proud is unworthy.

Or

- Unreconciled with other believers

If we enter Communion while harboring bitterness, or anger, or feelings of superiority or carnal and insensitive spirits towards other believers in Christ's body. Such attitudes are completely inconsistent with the Gospel claims of Christ, and only scandalize the worship.

The point is – we must remember and proclaim by faith in Jesus Christ alone – in a way that is consistent with faith working through love.

So today as you come to remember and proclaim that only Jesus satisfies your soul, if God's Spirit convicts you of any sin... the Lord's table is a beautiful place to repent and confess. For 1 John 1:9 declares,

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Do you see church – O please don't miss this – none of us are worthy in and of ourselves to partake of such a holy festival. **You can eat and drink worthily – not because you had a good week – but because you have a good Savior and you are joyfully living out your union with Him by faith!** So as we come to the table together... take the time that is given you to quietly search your heart – throwing the covers off your sins and coming hungry and thirsty to Christ. He is the bread of life who will satisfy your hungry soul. He alone is the water of life who can quench your thirst. Confess your sins, and walk in the light before Him! He alone is able to change your life from the inside out – bringing you out of bondage, delivering you, redeeming you, and taking you as His own!

Remember - the meal we eat together today is just a small foretaste of the wedding feast to come in His kingdom someday. So,



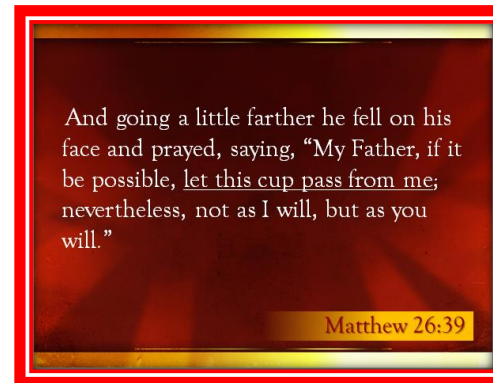
- Long for His wedding feast

Jesus takes us as His own. Jesus the groom – has purchased the church for His bride!

Do you remember what Jesus said back in the Gospels when he said, “I shall never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God” (Mk 14:25).

That means that Jesus never drank the 4th Cup on that Passover evening. The cup of consummation and protection was left undrunk for Jesus on that night. For on that night, there was no protection for Jesus. There was to be no spiritual oneness with the Father on that night. No – Jesus didn’t drink the 4th cup on that fateful night... because He knew that when He got to Gethsemane, He would face a 5th cup unlike all the others!

Listen to His prayer in the garden that night,



And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

This was the cup of God’s wrath – full to the brim of God’s fury against our sin.⁵ And when Jesus looked into this cup He cried out in anguish – Father, Please let it pass from me! But nevertheless Father not my will – but yours be done! I will be the Passover Lamb. I will be the firstborn that dies so that all who believe in me will never perish or be condemned, but have everlasting life! I will drink this cup of fury so that they can drink the cup of blessing...so that Father you can forgive their sins, and we together can take them to be our people, and we can be their God!

⁵ Jeremiah 25



O church...Worship the Lamb of God today! Enter today into this festival of the redeemed, and eat and drink by faith in the One who shed His blood for you. Remember and proclaim that He has made an end to all your sin! We are one with Him again!

At this time, I'd invite the servers to stand and prepare to serve us with the communion elements. As you receive the bread, and then the juice... **please wait to partake until we can all do so together after everyone is served.**

While we are being served the elements, take the time to remember and renew your faith in Christ. Quietly confess any sins and rejoice together in our Savior as we participate by faith in this Festival of the Redeemed.

Jesus first took bread and gave thanks for it. I'm going to ask _____ to give thanks at this time.

<<wait for congregation to be served>>

the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and

said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

<<eat>>

It is now time for us to drink in remembrance of Christ's redemption. I'm going to ask _____ to pray for us as we take the cup together.

<<wait for congregation to be served>>

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

<<drink>>

Amen.

Church – we can celebrate that our spiritual hunger and thirst is fully satisfied in Jesus Christ!

Let's sing a closing hymn together now as we rejoice in the greatness of our salvation through Christ. 19 verses!
☺

Closing Song: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. And the love of the brethren be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

1 Corinthians 16:23-24 (pp)